

Judge calls ANC leader's wife 'a calm, composed, unblushing and unprincipled liar'

Winnie Mandela found guilty on eight counts

From RAY KENNEDY in JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE Mandela was found guilty of kidnapping and accessory to assault yesterday at the climax of a 44-day trial arising from the abduction of three young black men and a boy to her Soweto home.

The hearing against the wife of Nelson Mandela, the deputy president of the African National Congress, and her two co-defendants will continue today in the Rand Supreme Court in Johannesburg, but it was not clear last night when sentence will be passed. Arguments in mitigation of sentence will be presented by counsel today.

Mr Justice Michael Stegmann said that Mandela had shown herself on a number of occasions to be a "calm, composed, unblushing and unprincipled liar". At the end of the hearing, which began on February 6, he found Mandela, aged 56, guilty of four counts of kidnapping. He ruled that her alibi that she was several hundred miles from her home when the

assaults took place in December 1988 was "reasonably possible", but he found her guilty of four charges of accessory to the fact of the assault.

The two co-defendants, Xoliswa Felani, aged 36, and John Morgan, aged 61, were also convicted. Felani was found guilty of all eight charges of kidnapping and assault and Morgan, who drove a minibus in which the four victims were abducted, was found guilty of kidnapping. He was, however, cleared of assault.

The three defendants were granted bail. Mandela, accompanied by her husband, smiled as she left court. "As long as it is clear that I never assaulted a child I am innocent," she said. "The rest I leave up to my attorneys."

Mr Mandela, who sat in the packed court throughout the day, looked tired and strained. He refused to talk to journalists about the verdict. "My wife has made a statement," he said as he hurried past, hugging and kissing her.

George Bizos, Mandela's counsel, said he did not wish to comment until the trial was completed and he would not say whether he would file an appeal. It is almost certain, however, that an appeal will be made - the right to do so is now automatic under South African law. The ANC said: "There will be no comment on the verdict at the moment."

The judge said he could not make a finding that Mandela had participated in the assaults, but it was clear beyond reasonable doubt that she had associated herself with the principal perpetrators and had made herself guilty as an accessory after the fact. He said that Mandela's alibi that she was on her way to Bradford, in the Orange Free State, when the assaults occurred had not been proved to be false. She undoubtedly knew of the assault, however, by January 1, 1989, after she returned home, but she had continued to conceal details of the crime.

He said that Mandela's evidence about whether she had noticed that the victims had been severely injured had been "vague and evasive". She had deliberately avoided seeing and knowing what must have been obvious to all the people living at her house.

Much of the defence argument concerned claims that the three young men and a boy

were taken from a Methodist church manse in Soweto because of sexual advances made by the Rev Paul Verry, the minister in charge. The judge said that he found no motive for the smear campaign against the minister and it was not up to him to rule on his conduct in this issue.

One of the four, Stompie Seleketsi, aged 14, was found dead in a ditch several days after the abduction and Jerry Richardson, the coach of Mandela's former team of bodyguards, was last year sentenced to death for his murder. At the same time, black leaders in Soweto urged the community to distance itself from Mandela, who had been revered as the "mother of the nation" while her husband languished in prison. The bodyguards, known as the Mandela United Football Club, was disbanded following orders from the ANC executive and from Mr Mandela in his cell.

The judge said yesterday that Mandela had not been a candid witness in her answers about the football club whose members lived in rooms behind her house. This appeared to be because she was sensitive to speculation that she had surrounded herself with bodyguards, he said.

"I can only conclude that she did not wish to reveal the whole truth with regard to the club," the judge said. She had apparently wanted to hide the fact that members of the club had been expected to guard her house and act as her bodyguards on various social outings.

The ANC issued a statement last night dissociating itself from the Mandela United Football Club. It said that after Mr Mandela's release in February 1990 after 27 years in jail, it decided that all members of the club should be removed and barred from the Mandela residence and other premises associated with the Mandela family.

The statement said that the ANC consulted the South African security services to ensure that this change took place "without hitches" and a number of "reliable comrades" were selected and trained for the task of VIP protection. The statement added: "None of the members of the Mandela Football Club was selected for this purpose."

Mandela's story, page 8
Blow to ANC, page 14

Judge gives go-ahead for abortion on girl, 12

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A HIGH Court judge yesterday allowed a girl aged 12 to have an abortion against her mother's wishes. Social workers had considered the girl incapable of bringing up a child.

The ruling was criticised by pro-life organisations as "a serious violation of parental rights". Social services organisations and children's groups, however, said the interest of the child and her baby should always come first.

Mr Justice Hollis took into

account the views of the child and medical evidence before making his judgment in private after one and a half days of legal argument.

A statement last night from Hillingdon council in west London said the child would remain a ward of court with interim care and control going to the local authority. The child will continue to live with her grandparents.

Court rejection, page 2
Abortion battle, page 11



Unabashed: Winnie Mandela giving a black power salute as she left the court with her husband yesterday

Marines kill Iraqi soldier

From ANDREW FINKEL in SARSAK AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ROYAL Marines killed an Iraqi soldier yesterday in an exchange of fire near one of President Saddam Hussein's summer palaces at Sarsak in the north of the country.

The exchange marked the first time British soldiers had been shot at by Iraqis since the Gulf war ceasefire in March. The shooting increased tension as negotiations to oblige the Iraqi army to withdraw from the city of Dahuk to the south continued.

Tom King, the defence secretary, is to make an on-the-spot assessment today of what needs to be done to persuade Kurdish refugees to move back to Dahuk.

The Soviet Union yesterday warned the United States that it was "treading a thin line" in Iraq, but James Baker, the American Secretary of State, appealed for support from the Kremlin in helping to authorise a ceasefire.

Baker's hope, page 9
Leading article, page 15



Bank joins battle over interest rate cuts

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND GEORGE SIVELL

GROWING evidence of the extent of the recession is leading to tensions within the government over the timing of the next election. While Conservative MPs are pushing the Chancellor for further interest rate cuts, the Bank of England is signalling caution.

Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, deliberately timed this week's Monmouth by-election before the publication of this Friday of inflation figures which are expected to show a drop of around 2 per cent from the present level of 8.2 per cent.

The planned strategy was that confirmation of the sharp fall in inflation would be the first step in the government's political recovery to a point at which it could go to the country in October with economic optimism increasing and voters enjoying the "feel good" feeling of extra money in their pockets. This was to be sustained through the summer, it was hoped, by further cuts in interest rates and mortgage payments to follow the five cuts already made since Britain joined the ERM last October. The bank, worried that the underlying inflation rate is not coming down fast enough, has been indicating that the pace on interest rate cuts should not be rushed.

With Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, being pulled in different ways by political and economic pressures Treasury ministers are continuing to urge that the election should be put off until next year.

Further signs that the government's high interest rate policy is biting deeply emerged yesterday. Official figures showed an increase in new consumer credit of £280 million in the first quarter of 1991, the lowest since records began six years ago. Tory MPs will also be encouraged to press for a further cut in base rates later this week with unemployment figures due on Thursday which are expected to reveal a further 100,000 increase in the length of the dole queues.

But the Bank of England signalled to money markets last Friday that it did not want to see base rates cut from the present 12 per cent for a further two weeks. Economists believe the bank's reluctance to see a cut stems in part from figures on factory gate prices due today. They are expected to show continued stubborn increases running at more than 6 per cent a year.

The bank is also worried over government borrowing, which City economists say will be 50 per cent more than the £8 billion forecast at the time of the budget. New public borrowing figures are also due on Friday.

Borrowing falls, page 21

Labour by-election boost

LABOUR has taken a strong lead in the Monmouth by-election, according to an opinion poll published last night (Philip Webster writes). Its candidate, Huw Edwards, is 8 per cent ahead of the Tories, the NOP poll for HTV Wales and The Independent said. If the survey is borne out by Thursday's result any finger-

ing chance of a June general election will go. The poll gave Labour 41 per cent, the Conservatives 33 per cent and the Liberal Democrats 24 per cent. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said last night that the by-election was still "wide open".

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Major reverses Thatcher policy on Antarctic

In a radical switch, John Major has backed a ban on Antarctic mining, reports Michael McCarthy

The prime minister has personally reversed British policy towards protection of the Antarctic in his first significant intervention on the environment, and in doing so has made another break with the legacy of Margaret Thatcher.

John Major has outflanked strong Whitehall opposition to the proposed 30-year Antarctic mining ban, by the simple but bold expedient of declaring his support for it. In an unopposed parliamentary written answer late on Friday, Mr Major expressed the government's unequivocal backing for the ban, put forward a fortnight ago at the Madrid meeting of the parties to the Antarctic treaty.

His statement marks the official abandonment of the government's long-standing support for the Antarctic Minerals Convention, negotiated in 1988, which permitted mineral prospecting and foreshadowed eventual mining. The convention was supported strongly by Mrs Thatcher, and tenaciously by three Whitehall departments - the Foreign Office, energy, and trade and industry.

However, it had become the subject of bitter opposition from environmentalists and a group of countries, led by France and Australia, which want the continent declared a world park reserved for science, with a permanent ban on mining.

An opportunity for a consensus appeared at the Madrid meeting with the Norwegian suggestion of a 30-year mining moratorium, the lifting of which would have to be unanimously agreed by all 26 parties to the Antarctic treaty. Officials took the proposal back to their governments for consultation. In Whitehall, there was strong opposition to the plan from the trade and industry secretary, Peter Lilley, and from the energy secretary, John Wakeham, both of whom wrote

Continued on page 20, col 2

APPEAL FOR BANGLADESH

Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced by the cyclone in Bangladesh.

International Refugee Year Trust is standing by to help the victims - but we cannot do anything without your help.

Please send whatever you can NOW.

Patron: Mother Teresa

My donation for Bangladesh is:

☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 Other: £

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Postcode:

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Please charge my ☐ Access ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐

Account:

Expiry date: / / Signature: (credit cards only)

☐ Please send me more information about your work

Return to: International Refugee Year Trust, 29 City Business Centre, Lower Floor, London, SE16 2XS.

TT 14/05/91 Registered Charity No. 802450

Currie 'shocked'

Edwina Currie, the Tory MP, was "deeply shocked", her counsel claimed in a High Court libel action against The Observer, when she was compared to a film character who murdered to further her political career. Page 3

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Ross: enough pay for 18 million movie shows

US businessmen enjoy the profits of gloom

From PHILIP ROBINSON in NEW YORK

AMERICA'S top 25 business leaders have been paid almost \$1 billion (£580 million) over the past five years, as the US economy has moved from boom to bust. A survey by the financial magazine *Forbes* shows that whether profits have been up or down Uncle Sam's senior executives have been taking home a combined \$3.5 million a week since 1986.

The \$923 million five-year pay packet includes pay, special bonuses and share options but does not include the value of perks such as corporate jets, company limousines or the use of corporate housing or yachts. The survey emerged during a weekend when 100 of America's corporate elite of bankers and industrialists called for further cuts in US interest rates to bring a swift end to a

recession which boardroom pay-watchers cynically observed has hardly touched senior pay.

Over the past ten years, executive pay has jumped 212 per cent while profits have risen by only 78 per cent. According to *Forbes*, Lee Iacocca, chief of the car giant Chrysler, has earned \$49.2 million in the past five years when profits dropped from \$1.4 billion to losses in the first three months of this year.

According to the survey, in the five years since 1986, Michael Eisner, Walt Disney's chief, received \$71.1 million, enough for a family of four to gain daily entry into Disneyland for 1,917 years; and Charles Lazarus, who heads the world's biggest toy chain Toys R US, could have bought 18,256,513 Ninja Turtles with his \$91.1 million.

Heading the pay list is Steve Ross, who runs the entertainment giant Time Warner. His \$137 million could have

allowed him 18 million visits to a US cinema or 34 million copies of the monthly magazine *Time*. The company lost \$227 million after taxes last year.

Executive pay which relates to companies' profits has become a key issue among pension funds and insurance firms which dominate as shareholders of the top American corporations. One \$60 billion fund recently took the unprecedented step of voting against the re-election of directors at conglomerate ITT, because the pay of its chairman, Rand Araskog, jumped 63 per cent while profits inched forward 4 per cent.

But no industrialist can beat the record \$1.1 billion paid between 1984 and 1987 to stockbroker Michael Milken who headed the high-risk investment department at the New York bank, Drexel Burnham Lambert. He is now serving a 10-year prison sentence for a variety of share-dealing violations.

Ingham version of Westland 'differs from enquiry evidence'



Sir Bernard Ingham's dilemma exposed by memoirs

SENIOR civil servants told a Cabinet Office enquiry that the leak designed to discredit Michael Heseltine during the Westland affair had been approved by Downing Street, informed sources disclosed yesterday.

Sir Bernard Ingham's memoirs have exposed the central dilemma facing Sir Robert Armstrong (now Lord Armstrong of Ilminster), the former cabinet secretary, when he held the investigation five years ago. The former press secretary's outright denial in the censored version of his memoirs, *Kill the*

Messenger, that he had authorised the leak was at variance with the account given in 1989 by Sir Leon Brittan, industry secretary during Westland, that there would have been no release without "express approval from No 10".

Informed sources said yesterday that both John Mogg, Sir Leon's private secretary at the time, and Colette Bowe, his chief press officer, told the enquiry that both had been given clearance by No 10 — Mr Mogg in a conversation with Charles Powell, Mrs Thatcher's private secretary, and Ms Bowe in

The serialisation of Sir Bernard Ingham's memoirs have highlighted the infamous leaking of the solicitor-general's letter in the Westland affair, Philip Webster reports

a conversation with Sir Bernard. One central source says their evidence was the reason why no action was contemplated against Ms Bowe for making the disclosure to the Press Association.

Sir Bernard says in his book that his eyebrows shot up when he was told by Ms Bowe that she had been

given ministerial permission to leak the letter from Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor-general.

The contradictory accounts explain why Mrs Thatcher told the Commons on January 27, 1986 that there had been a "genuine difference in understanding" between DTI officials and her office.

Sir Leon has declined further comment but has made clear that he accepts his officials were given approval and the letter would not have been leaked without consent. Sir Bernard's account said Ms Bowe had made it clear that the DTI hoped Downing Street, namely himself, would do the leaking.

"I refused to do so point blank. I had no authority to disclose the solicitor-general's letter. At no time was I asked to approve of the disclosure. I could not have done so without seeking Mrs Thatcher's specific permission. What I

ought to have done — and regret to this day that I did not — was advise Bowe, regardless of her minister's permission, to have nothing to do with the play herself.

"It is on the basis of this failure that the DTI felt able to claim that I — and indeed Charles Powell — had accepted that the letter should be disclosed. It was at best tacit acceptance in the sense that I did not actively object to a ministerial decision to disclose it." Ms Bowe, director of public affairs at the Securities and Investment Board, has declined to give her version.

Court rejects mother's view to let girl, 12, have abortion

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A HIGH Court judge yesterday overruled a mother's objection to her 12-year-old pregnant daughter having an abortion.

The ruling, believed to be the first of its kind in respect of a girl so young, was given in private by Mr Justice Hollis. It is understood that the girl, who has not been identified, is already near the 24-week abortion limit.

A representative from the Official Solicitor's Office said the judge had taken into account the interests of the child and medical evidence. The views of the girl from Hillingdon, west London, who was made a ward of court after her mother insisted she should have a baby, had also been considered, he said. Social workers brought the case to the High Court because of concern over the child's ability to care for a baby.

However, the judge's decision was attacked by the anti-abortion group Life as a violation of parental rights. Jack Scarisbrick, the director,

said the girl was being "hushed into an abortion by over-zealous social workers and an uncaring judge". The common law should protect life, not join in a conspiracy against it, he said. "The judge and social workers have also been guilty of a serious violation of parental rights because the mother of the girl did not want her daughter to have an abortion."

Children's organisations yesterday said that it was not known how many similar hearings had come before judges, because the cases were generally heard in private.

However, Peter Smallridge, vice-president of the Association of Directors of Social Services, said the ruling was probably the most significant since the Gillick judgment over the contraceptive pill in which it was viewed that a child under 16 should be able to make his or her own judgments.

Mr Smallridge said that in most cases the issue never came to court and was agreed with the parents after counselling. In all the cases that he had come across where young girls in care had become pregnant and did not want a child, abortions had been carried out.

Mr Smallridge said he would normally always refer the girl to the British Pregnancy Advice Service for counselling before a decision was made. Once the child decides to have an abortion she can apply to become a ward of court, or social workers can make the application. This prevents the mother having any rights over her child and means the judge does not have to take her views into account.

However Mr Smallridge said social workers faced a dilemma in reconciling the interests of the child with the parents'. The Children's Act, coming into force in October, could make the problem worse as social workers will be expected to work "in partnership" with parents.

In 1989 six children aged 12 gave birth, while a further nine had legal abortions, according to government figures from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Threat to ceasefire as talks stay stuck

By TIM JONES

AS NORTHERN Ireland politicians met yesterday to try to rescue deadlocked talks over the political future of the province, the IRA threatened to end their ceasefire and renew their violent offensive "on an unprecedented scale".

After a week of wasted dialogue that failed even to agree a venue for a second round of talks, yesterday's meeting at Stormont, between Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, and leaders of the four main constitutional parties, were being seen as the last chance to save the initiative on the province's future, which began 15 months ago.

As the parties, which should have met across a table last week, continued separate talks with Mr Brooke, it became understood that he told them that if they could not agree, he had no choice but to present them with his own plan.

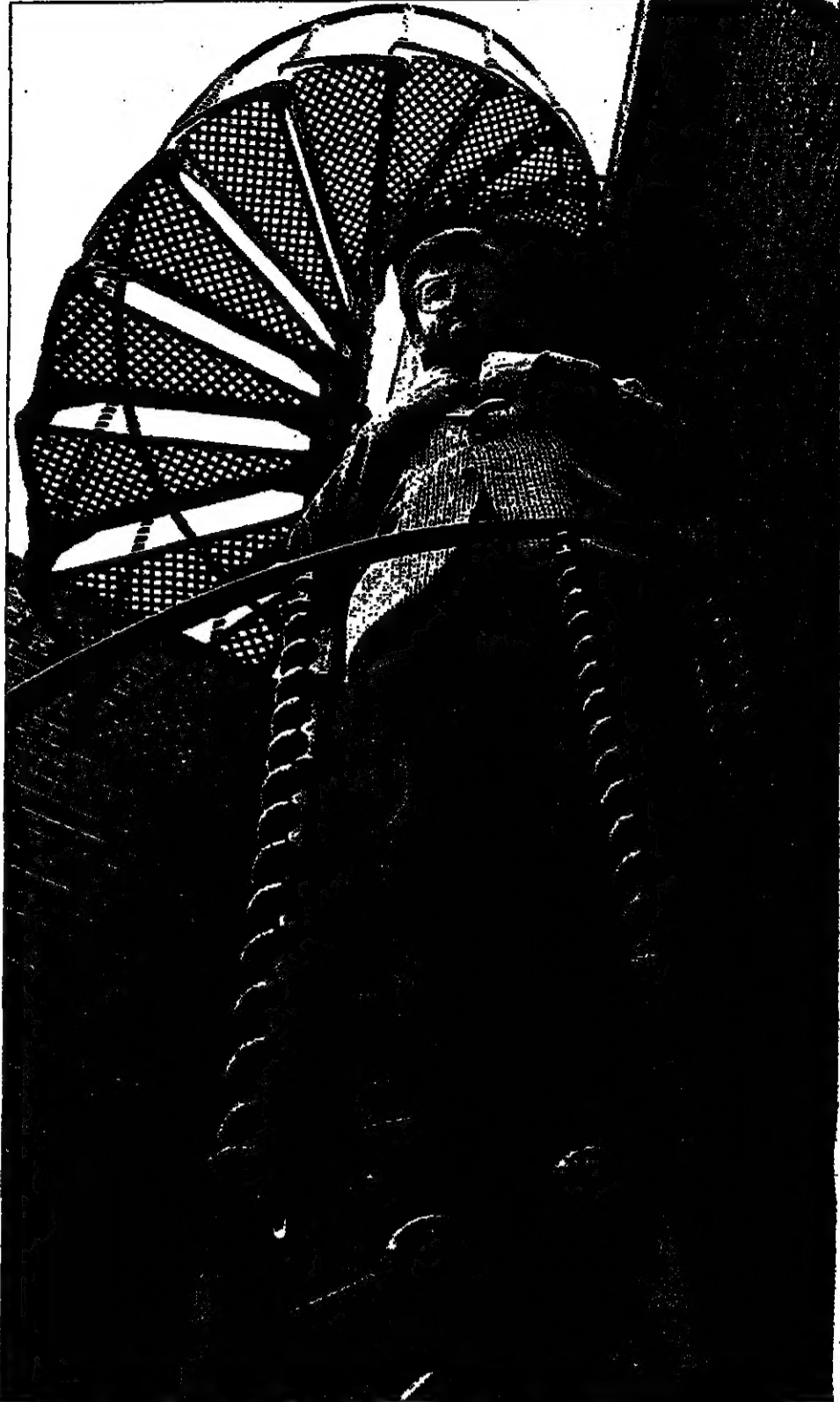
According to well-placed sources, this involves the second stage of the talks, which would involve the Irish republic's government, opening in London with the substantive issues being discussed in Belfast. The round would finish in Dublin before a third phase involving both governments discussing the relationship between the two countries.

It is understood that this compromise was arrived at on Friday when Mr Brooke met Gerry Collins, the Irish foreign minister, in London.

Leaders of the two unionist parties had insisted that they would not travel to Dublin, regarded as a "hostile" foreign capital, and said that all but phase three should be held in London or a neutral location. John Hume, leader of the SDLP, has maintained that the talks could alternate between London and Dublin or between any two venues in Britain or Ireland.

As the talks began yesterday, Robert Orr, a leading local businessman and a senior member of the Orange Order, was killed when a booby-trap bomb exploded under his car in the centre of Armagh city. Mr Orr, was a former member of the RUC reserve force, who resigned five years ago to concentrate on his business interests.

Seamus Mallon, SDLP MP for Newry and Armagh, said: "The murder highlights in the



Meeting the media: Gerry Adams at a news conference in London yesterday at which he criticised the exclusion of Sinn Féin from talks on Northern Ireland

most poignant way the absolute need for a political settlement that will bring peace and stability."

The Ulster Loyalist Central Co-ordinating Committee, an umbrella group for fringe Loyalist organisations credited with bringing about the outlawed UVF's and UFF's ceasefire for the duration of the talks, told both sides to "get your act together".

A committee spokesman said: "If the talks break down without real progress, then Loyalist paramilitaries, some of whom are very sceptical

about the advantages of a ceasefire, will be extremely angry. The only logical conclusion that could be drawn is that our elected leaders cannot find a solution and a renewed military offensive on an unprecedented scale would be inevitable."

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin, said yesterday that the talks were meaningless because his party was not involved, but refused to renounce violence if that were a condition of being allowed to take part. Mr Adams said: "Peter

Brooke hardly represents a pacifist organisation. Many of my constituents in West Belfast have been killed by the British Army."

The British government was using Sinn Féin's "political position" of supporting violence as an excuse to keep it out of the talks, he said. Mr Adams said: "Sinn Féin represents approximately 35 per cent of the nationalist electorate, yet we are being excluded from the talks process. We don't put any preconditions to talking."

Concert for Kurds 'on target for £10m'

By PETER VICTOR

THE organisers of Sunday's Simple Truth charity concert in aid of the Kurdish refugees said yesterday that they expected to reach their £10 million target. Telephone donation pledges to the BBC totalled £1,485,524 by the end of the concert, and more cash was expected by mail and through post offices and banks before the appeal closes on May 25, the organisers said.

The author Jeffrey Archer, one of the organisers, said yesterday: "We are heading well towards £10 million — to match the £10 million the government has donated."

The Wembley event is expected to net around £1 million for the appeal in ticket receipts and sales. That includes \$1 million in donations from 39 television networks worldwide that broadcast the concert. The networks also organised local television appeals. The receipts from those donated to local Red Cross charities are still to be assessed. Ten or 12 more networks are expected to broadcast the concert.

The finale, by Chris de Burgh, is to be released as a single with all profits going to the Red Cross appeal.

Cherie Simpson, of Leinster Dickson, a public relations company organising the appeal, said, however, that she would not know until the end of the week roughly how much they had expected.

Dr Carey said at the launch of Christian Aid Week: "I welcome the Government's commitment to increasing the aid budget to the United Nations' target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as soon as ever possible," he said. "But we need to remind ourselves that that target was set in the 1970s and we have still to meet it. Indeed our present percentage of 0.3 per cent is one of the lowest in Europe. I hope that with growing cooperation between the great powers and the easing of tensions, cuts in military spending will mean the target can be reached sooner rather than later."

Maguire short cut rejected

A formula designed to shorten the Maguire Seven appeal hearing against convictions of allegedly running an IRA bomb factory was rejected by the Court of Appeal judges yesterday (writes Lin Jenkins).

The proposal put forward by Anthony Arlidge, QC, which he suggested would remove any implication of guilt, was dismissed as unsatisfactory unless the appellants were prepared to limit their case to narrow grounds and not the six original points.

Mr Arlidge said that after material relating to the scientific evidence had come to light he had tried to find a middle course that could lead to the quashing of the convictions, centred on the family's claim that non-disclosure of relevant material by civil service scientists at the trial was a "material irregularity".

Child cruelty claims studied

An independent enquiry into allegations of serious abuse at a government-run centre for disturbed children has been ordered by the health department (Jill Sherman writes).

Psychologists are investigating claims by a girl aged 17 that she was forcibly injected with drugs and kept in a cell for seven weeks at St Charles' youth treatment centre at Brentwood, Essex. The teenager, now 18, another centre, said that she was also sexually abused while in the centre.

Family affair

Eve Pollard takes over as editor of the *Sunday Express* today after three years as editor of the *Sunday Mirror*. Her husband, Sir Nick Lloyd, is editor of the *Daily Express*. The *Sunday Express's* circulation has fallen from a peak of 4.1 million two decades ago to 1.63 million last month. Miss Pollard's replacement at the *Sunday Mirror* is Bridget Rowe, formerly editor of *TV Times*.

Changes urged

Judges should be made to retire at 65 and should have to undergo continuing education after their appointment, the Law Society's young solicitors group says. It also calls for a judicial appointments commission that could recommend to the Lord Chancellor that a judge be suspended or retired. The proposals are in response to the Law Society's paper proposing reforms to the way judges are appointed.

Teacher enquiry

A teacher at Rosall public school near Blackpool has been suspended after allegations that he supplied drugs to pupils. The suspension, pending internal and police investigations, follows the expulsion last week of a 16-year-old pupil found smoking cannabis.

Safety action

Surveillance equipment is to be installed at main railway stations to try to foil bombers, British Rail said yesterday. The closed circuit television cameras will be introduced as soon as possible in the wake of IRA bomb attacks at Paddington and Victoria stations in London.

CORRECTION

In our coverage of local election results last week we wrongly reported that Michael Meadowcroft, the former Liberal MP, had lost his council seat in Leeds. In fact, he had not been a council member since 1983 and had failed to win a seat for the Liberal party.

Reading The Times on Tuesday 14 May 1991. I have been here for 21 years and I do not know whether I am going to keep my job.

DIY chain opens shop law appeal in Lords

By FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

THE DIY chain B&Q began the last lap of its battle over Sunday trading in the House of Lords yesterday seeking to establish that the "strange and anomalous" laws which allow people to buy pornography but not the Bible on the Sabbath are no longer valid.

David Vaughan QC, opening B&Q's appeal against a High Court ruling last July that the Sunday opening laws in England and Wales have not been superseded by Europe, said the Shops Act was "a very strange animal which does not seem to fit in with any broad social objective".

You could buy pornographic literature on a Sunday, he said, but not the Bible. You could buy fish and chips from an Indian or Chinese takeaway, but not from an ordinary fish and chip shop.

In the case of B&Q — a mixed type of shop — plants and motor accessories could be sold, but not lawnmowers or wallpaper.

The appeal, to a panel of five law lords chaired by Lord Bridge of Harwich, is scheduled to last four days. The law lords' decision is not expected before next month, but could be delayed by up to two years if they decide that the case must be referred for further guidance from the European Court of Justice.

Mr Vaughan said it had been estimated that something like 60,000 shops were open on Sunday in England and Wales. The trading restrictions do not apply in Scotland, where between 15 and 20 per cent of shops open regularly on Sundays.

Apart from being a day which does not count for the purposes of the courts, there are remarkably few things you can't do on a Sunday. You can't sell methylated spirits other than for medical purposes. You can't play on a public billiard table in unlicensed premises. You can't kill or take game.

Some 10 million people worked either regularly or occasionally on Sundays, he said.

B&Q's appeal is being fought by Stoke-on-Trent and Norwich councils, which have secured permanent injunctions banning illegal Sunday trading in their city centres.

Law Times, page 27

WAGE DEALS

Harrods joins pay freeze club of recession-hit firms

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Harrods department store yesterday became the latest company to institute a pay freeze when it withdrew from its employees an offer of a 4 per cent increase.

Harrods' decision to hold wages level for six months came as Rolls Royce the aero-engine manufacturer strongly declined its decision to dismiss its 34,000-strong workforce as a means of imposing a pay freeze.

Some Harrods staff are considering repeating their protests of earlier this year, including stopping the traffic outside the store, in Knightsbridge, London. That action was aimed at a proposal for 600 redundancies, which was reduced to 250. Harrods staff will meet on Thursday.

Harrods said that trading conditions had been improving since the end of the Gulf war, but the recession had prevented a return to last year's level of business. Although the company had already made a pay offer of 3 per cent in April and a further 2 per cent in October, it had no choice but to withdraw the offer, and impose a pay freeze. The freeze, which will be reviewed in October, applies to all staff, from directors to doormen.

The store is the latest in a line of companies, including IBM, the Stock Exchange,

Michelin, the Co-Op Bank and Laura Ashley, to introduce pay freezes to cut costs during the recession. Few, however, have gone as far as Rolls Royce, where trade union leaders are taking legal advice about the firm's decision to impose a pay freeze by giving its 34,000 workers notice and offering to re-employ them under new contracts. Last week, the company announced 6,000 redundancies.

There are legal and other loopholes that the unions' lawyers may be able to exploit. Employment lawyers suggested yesterday, however, that in the absence of full employee agreement to a pay

freeze Rolls Royce's action was only legal method. Tony Blair, shadow employment secretary, described Rolls Royce's decision yesterday as "unacceptable behaviour" by a company in the 1990s.

Rolls Royce said that it had informed its workers of both the pay freeze and the termination of all employment contracts when it announced last week's job cuts, but the issue properly came to light only when the company's letters of notice were delivered on Saturday.

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Harrods joins pay freeze club of recession-hit firms

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

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Michelin, the Co-Op Bank and Laura Ashley, to introduce pay freezes to cut costs during the recession. Few, however, have gone as far as Rolls Royce, where trade union leaders are taking legal advice about the firm's decision to impose a pay freeze by giving its 34,000 workers notice and offering to re-employ them under new contracts. Last week, the company announced 6,000 redundancies.

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MP says Observer review likens her to woman who would kill to further her career

Currie 'insulted' by link with evil film character

By ROBIN YOUNG

EDWINA CURRIE, the Conservative MP, told a court yesterday that she was "insulted" by a film review in *The Observer* which she claims likens her to a character who undermines her marriage, sacrifices her family, and resorts to murder to further her political career.

The MP for South Derbyshire and former junior health minister is suing the newspaper over the article which quoted the actress, Charlotte Rampling, describing Clara Paige, the character she played in the thriller *Paris by Night*, as "an Edwinna Currie figure".

In the film Clara, a glamorous European MP said to epitomise the "new breed of thrusting Tory women", drives her husband to drunken despair, ignores the needs of her only son to further her career, and when she believes she is being threatened by blackmail kills to save her position.

Mrs Currie told the court that the character with whom she was compared was "directly antagonistic and opposite" to her. She denied that she had ever driven her husband Raymond to drink, or had a young lover during her 17 years of marriage, or neglected her daughters, Debbie, 16, and Susie, 13. They lived at Flinders, near Derby and enjoyed being together as a family. Mrs Currie said she tried to protect her family from her public life.

She told George Carman QC counsel for *The Observer*, that she was nicknamed Vindaloo in the Commons, as in vindaloo curry. "I regarded that almost as complimentary", she said. "My Asian constituents say vindaloo is hot, fresh, spicy and very enjoyable."

Mr Carman: "Or too hot to handle?"

Mrs Currie: "That's not a bad fault in a politician, sir." Mr Carman reminded Mrs Currie of her advice to businessmen to take their

wives abroad so as not to pick up sexual diseases; her advice to young girls not to "screw around"; her advice to people in the north not to eat chips; and her advice to the elderly to buy thermal underwear. He asked: "You are an exceptionally strong-minded, self-willed lady on occasion, aren't you?" Mrs Currie replied: "I have to be, it's part of my job."

Mr Carman referred her to other newspaper cuttings which described her variously as a "stranger to modesty" and an "appalling self-publicist who thinks she's the bees knees and has the quality of getting up everyone's nose". Mrs Currie said they were not fair but she would be in the courts all the time if she objected to everything written about her and that was not the right approach. Her objection to article was to its family context.

Mrs Currie said she was not a self-publicist. "I never have been, I am not interested in publicity for myself," she said. "Being well known is an absolute pain and burden. If I could do my job without it, I would." She told Mr Carman that she regarded an article in the current issue of *Punch*, illustrated with a drawing of her wearing skimpy Janet Reger lingerie, as "outrageous".

She said it excluded her



Carman described Mrs Currie as strong-minded.

political comments but included "little-tattle" about the opposite sex, stockings and flirting.

"The fact that I have some suspenders in my wardrobe should not lead anyone to assume that I wear suspenders. I do not intend to tell this court or anybody else what I wear for underwear."

Mr Carman said the *Punch* article showed that Mrs Currie was not being completely accurate when she said she tried to shield her family from publicity.

Her husband, aged 44, a chartered accountant, said she was hurt and shocked by the article. Cross-examined by Mr Carman, he agreed it was his wife who had proposed marriage.

Asked whether he seriously thought the article was suggesting that his wife was the sort of woman who would kill to further her position, Mr Currie said: "I thought it meant that she was careless about what she would do to further her political future."

Observer editor Donald Trefford told the court: "I've read the article myself several times and I couldn't see the innuendo. There was no evidence that anyone read the article in that light. I haven't had a single letter from readers."

"I don't see what more we could have done. We published a clarification which made it clear in terms that we had not intended the meaning to be read in the article that the character of Clara was based on Mrs Currie. And we made an offer to Mrs Currie, which was not taken up, to carry her letter to Charlotte Rampling."

Mr Carman asked the jury to use common sense, not sympathy for Mrs Currie when reaching a decision. *The Observer* was not a scurrilous sensational tabloid, but a quality newspaper with a respectable pedigree. The hearing continues today.



Family support: Mrs Currie with her husband Raymond outside the court yesterday

Spurned man 'killed and buried lover'

By JOHN YOUNG

A WOMAN aged 33 was abducted, murdered and buried in a field "all in one dreadful night", Winchester crown court was told yesterday.

Michael Kyte, aged 49, of Westbury, Wiltshire, denies murdering Ruth Stevens between December 12, 1989, and January 9, last year.

Nigel Pascoe, QC, for the prosecution, said that Ms Stevens was abducted from Warminster, Wiltshire, killed and her body buried in a field near Bath. She had earlier rejected Mr Kyte, her former lover, with whom she owned a house in Westbury. She had done so "decisively... a rejection he could not take". It had not been a murder in the heat of the moment, but one that had been planned.

Mr Kyte had disabled the horn on Ms Stevens's car to prevent her sounding it for help, and appeared to have selected her grave in advance, Mr Pascoe told the jury.

Anticipating that the killing and the disposal of the body might make him late for work the next day, Mr Kyte had excused his absence with "a phantom dental appointment that was never made".

Mr Pascoe said Ms Stevens lived with her parents and in Westbury, and worked in a chemist's shop. On the evening of the alleged murder, she had been met by her fiancé, Pat Kelly, a barman, who drove her home before she left in her silver Vauxhall Viva for an evening class. Another student saw a man crouching

in the back of a car that she thought was a silver Viva.

Ms Stevens had left the class to meet Mr Kelly at the Ludlow Arms, Westbury. Some 10 minutes later, a driver on the A36 had seen a silver Viva enter a wood. When Ms Stevens failed to arrive, Mr Kelly had telephoned her parents, who rang police. Two officers went to Mr Kyte's house, but drew no response.

Mr Pascoe said: "It is a fundamental part of the prosecution case that they made sufficient noise to waken up Michael Kyte if he had been inside. They certainly woke up more than one neighbour."

Mr Kyte had, "at all times and in all interviews, and in his witness statements", denied being responsible for Ms Stevens's disappearance.

There was nationwide publicity about Ms Stevens's disappearance. Her car was found in December 1989, in London, with what seemed to be matching fibres from Mr Kyte's jacket in it. On January 8, last year, Mr Kyte had been charged with murder. Ms Stevens's body was found 18 miles from Warminster in June by a woman out walking.

Mr Kyte had claimed that he felt unwell and slept all of the night in question at home. "We say that Kyte had not allowed for the extremely speedy police response," Mr Pascoe said. "He was not there because he was out and about, carrying out the murder and burying of Ruth Stevens." The trial resumes today.

LIKE FATHER LIKE SON



Sam Knowles (far left), an Abbey man at heart. Has a new Abbey National Investment Account. It's like locking his money up, but keeping the key. John Knowles. Also a saver. Loves to rake in interest but needs to write the occasional cheque. His High Interest Cheque Account really fits the bill.

Mugger had police record

A MUGGER snubbed to death with his own knife by an alleged vigilante had made 14 court appearances and had "dozens" of convictions for offences, including burglary, robbery and drugs, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

Michael Sergeant, aged 27, of Clapham, was described by police as a member of "one of the worst gangs in southwest London", said Mr Michael Mansfield, QC, defending Kenneth Carrera, aged 56, a former sailor, also of Clapham, who denies murder.

The court heard that Sergeant and three others were involved in a mugging attack on Carrera, a keep-fit fanatic, who wrestled a knife from Sergeant and allegedly stabbed him four times.

Mr Victor Temple, for the prosecution, claimed Carrera was obsessed with ridding the streets of muggers. Carrera told detectives: "I will defend myself and helpless people." He said that many of his friends and neighbours had been victims of street robbers. The case continues today.

Club siege linked to Iraq, court told

AN INCIDENT in which 150 people were held hostage at a London nightclub for ten hours may have been linked with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, a court was told yesterday.

Syrian-born Hani Elrayes, who is alleged to have raided Tokyo Joe's nightclub in Piccadilly armed with shotguns and a fake bomb strapped to his waist, told the Central Criminal Court that he learnt of an Iraqi plot to inflame Muslims and win their support before the Gulf war. However, when he tried to warn 21 Arab embassies in London they refused to believe him and he went on a three-day drinking binge which, the prosecution alleges, ended with the siege at the club, which was frequented by prominent Arabs.

Dorian Lovell-Pank, for the prosecution, said the motive might be connected with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which began three days later. The court was told that Iraqi intelligence planned to flood British mosques with pornographic and blasphemous

literature to try to inflame Muslims. Elrayes, aged 31, said an old friend who confessed to being an Iraqi secret agent attempted to recruit him to distribute the material. Elrayes, of Edgware Road, Paddington, west London, denies six charges, including planting an imitation bomb, false imprisonment and making a threat to kill.

He described how the friend — referred to as X — produced negatives for a magazine that depicted a woman wearing no clothes but with her head covered in a traditional Arab garment, a man making love to a woman while she prayed and of a naked girl sitting astride a box like the Al Kaaba, a holy relic.

X said that when the Muslims saw the magazine they would be angry with the British government, the Saudi and Kuwaiti royal families and would stand by Iraq and drive out the royal families in the Gulf states. Elrayes said: "He [X] told me what was going to happen in August — the Gulf war."

The trial continues today.

Essential service that has saved 120,000 lives at sea

THE Duke of Kent, president of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, will today present the institution's annual awards for gallantry at a ceremony in the Festival Hall, in London.

In the 167 years since it was founded by Sir William Hillary the institution claims to have saved more than 120,000 people from death at sea. It is perhaps the world's most remarkable example of an essential public service funded entirely by voluntary contributions; last year alone it cost some £44 million to maintain.

Only about 40 countries in the world can boast an organised coastal rescue service, most of which will be represented at a conference in Oslo next month. Such conferences are held every four years and rely heavily on the RNLI's expertise in providing the organisation and back-up services. The Netherlands is the only other

John Young reports on the remarkable achievements of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution

country with a single national voluntary body.

The RNLI provides a 24-hour emergency service that covers the entire coastline of the British Isles, including the Republic of Ireland, and operates up to at least 50 miles from the shore. It maintains 208 lifeboat stations, with 266 vessels on standby and a further 110 in the relief fleet.

Apart from the maintenance mechanic, usually a full-time employee of the institution, lifeboat crews are all volunteers. By tradition, most are fishermen, but in recent years they have

been supplemented by policemen, shopkeepers, teachers and office workers.

Demands on the service have risen with the growing interest in sailing and other water activities. Last year lifeboats answered a record 4,881 distress calls, of which 2,715 were to pleasure craft; 1,125 yachtsmen were rescued, nearly three quarters of all the lives saved.

There were 555 calls to people not aboard a vessel, such as swimmers, divers and waterskiers; to walkers and vehicles cut off by the tide; and to others who had fallen off cliffs, piers and jetties. In this category 185 lives were saved.

There was an 8 per cent increase in operations involving merchant ships and tankers, nearly half of them carried out in darkness. The number of launches to fishing vessels in distress also rose, with an estimated 247 lives saved.

ABBEY NATIONAL

The habit of a lifetime

Penhaligon widow wins £300,000 damages

By LIN JENKINS

THE widow of David Penhaligon accepted £300,000 damages in the High Court yesterday over the death of the Liberal MP in a road accident four years ago.

The unexpected settlement came on the fifth day of the hearing into the action for £700,000 brought by Annette Penhaligon on behalf of herself and her children, Matthew, aged 18, and Anna, aged 13. After the settlement between the parties, Mr Justice Macpherson gave judgment by consent against Anthony Barry, of St Austell, Cornwall, who was driving the van that was in the accident with Mr Penhaligon's car, and his employer, W.L. Miller and Son of Poole, Dorset.

The hearing will continue tomorrow to decide whether Cornwall county council was negligent in not gritting the allegedly icy road and should therefore make a contribution to the award. The court has also yet to decide on the payment of costs.

The settlement will be shared between the family of the 42-year-old MP for Truro, who died when his car was in a collision with Mr Barry's van on the A390 St Austell to Truro road at 6.45am on a Monday shortly before Christ-

mas 1986. Mr Penhaligon's son will receive £5,000 and his daughter £15,000. The remainder will go to their mother.

The court was told that Mr Penhaligon was a rising star in the Liberal party who intended to remain an MP until he was aged 70. He had been elected in October 1974 with a precarious majority, but soon became a popular MP.

Simon Tuckley, counsel for Mrs Penhaligon, said that the accident happened when the two vehicles were travelling in opposite directions. Mr Barry's van crossed to the wrong side of the road and collided with Mr Penhaligon's car. "He may have lost control on the icy road. It is not suggested that Mr Penhaligon was guilty of negligent driving. He was blameless," Mr Tuckley told the court.

Mrs Penhaligon, aged 45, of Truro, who has taken up her husband's political torch and was recently returned as a local council member for Carrick, Cornwall, agreed during the hearing to a reduction of 15 per cent in any award because of a dispute over whether her husband had been wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident, a matter that could not be fully resolved.



Shooting stars: confident smiles from Jo Sumner, aged 18 (left), and Kerry Pannell, aged 20, the first women to pass a navy gunnery course. Wren Sumner and Wren Pannell, who serve in the Royal Navy's missile branch, have completed a seven-week course at HMS Cambridge, the naval gunnery school near Plymouth. They said they

had joined up for action at sea. "I would relish it. I've wanted to be a gunner ever since I joined up. We confounded a lot of people who did not think we could do it," said Wren Sumner, of Lowestoft, Suffolk. Wren Pannell, of Walsall, Staffordshire, and Wren Sumner came second and third respectively on the seven-strong course. Their command-

ing officer, Commander John Tighe, said: "Until now, gunnery was a traditional male bastion, so this is something special for HMS Cambridge and the navy." Apart from small arms, the Wrens learnt how to fire a general purpose machinegun and a 30mm anti-aircraft gun. In the summer they will join HMS Beaver, a Type-22 frigate.

Former 'face' robs crime of its recruits

A one-time criminal is working to divert high-risk children in Brixton away from crime before they start offending. Stewart Tendler reports

A FEW years ago, Hector Holmes was a man of some notoriety on the streets of Brixton, southeast London. He was, in his own words, a "face", a successful young criminal respected for his abilities and the finesse they could buy. "I was division one," he says. "I had crocodile skin shoes and silk suits."

Today, Hector Holmes is a £12,000-a-year field worker in a police-inspired project, using his status to prevent youngsters drifting into the life he once led. In less than a year, his ability to catch children, testing on the edge of crime, has, with the support given to their parents by Sandra Patricia Brown, the project's co-ordinator, marked the project as a small but potentially significant crime prevention effort.

Brixton Against Robbery (BAR) is the idea of PC Bob Oprey, a community officer with 26 years' experience. Like many inner-city areas, Brixton is prey to street crime, including muggings and purse-snatching by young criminals. Detection and surveillance are difficult, and, two years ago, PC Oprey considered focusing on children who might be tomorrow's thieves. "In the past ten to 20 years, so much has been done to divert children from the courts, but nothing has been done to divert them from crime in the first place," he said.

Crime can only profit in an area where unemployment is high, up to 45 per cent of families have only one parent, living conditions are overcrowded and an estimated 20 per cent of the 9,000 children in senior schools are involved in serious truancy.

BAR, formed with the help of local groups and funded by charities, is aimed at high-risk groups of about 400, aged between 11 and 18, thought to have been out of school for a year to 18 months and, as yet, not caught committing crime. The children are initially spotted by police. PC Oprey said: "If a 13-year-old is stopped at 2am and he is with a 14 or 15-year-old with three cases of robbery against him and stolen prop-

erty in his possession, then it seems likely the 13-year-old will go on the same path." PC Oprey visits the family to see whether they want help from BAR.

Ms Patricia Brown, a former nurse with four children of her own and once a local student leader, moves in to work with the parents, and Mr Holmes talks to the child. One purpose is make local agencies aware of problems. One child was found to have been truanting for 18 months without anyone noticing. A girl of 13 was found with a knife living at a house linked to drugs.

BAR has formed a parent support group chaired by Linnette Bruno, mother of the boxer Frank Bruno. Agencies are pressed to offer realistic help, and parents are offered help to communicate with children.

Hector Holmes joined the scheme when facing the choice of climbing into a new criminal league or going straight. For his family's sake, he went straight, accepting PC Oprey's challenge to join BAR. He knows the attraction of crime's easy money for lifting a youngster from poverty. "You get involved and you are living a little bit," Mr Holmes said. "They start by stealing from shops, then on the streets and then it's burglaries and then drugs. I can tell kids what they are going to face. I was involved with crime and I tell them about my mates who have gone on heroin, or doing a life sentence or six or seven years, and they can see the light. A lot of the kids want to get out, but are up against a lot of peer pressure."

Mr Holmes not only diverts youngsters back to school, he checks on progress. He has met antismug for his work, but considers it the most valuable thing he has done. The scheme has dealt with 32 children, and 20 are back in full-time education, with others on training courses. In one case, it is paying for one-to-one tuition because nothing else is available.

The scheme is expanding. Its protégés are commending BAR to their friends, and one wants to be a field worker like Mr Holmes.



Diversion ahead: PC Bob Oprey, left, and Hector Holmes, who turn children from crime in Brixton

MP sued over dog attack

Geoffrey Robinson, Labour MP for Coventry North-West, is being sued for compensation by a neighbour who was attacked by two of his dogs.

Guy Gammell, aged 64, said that he spent four days in hospital after being badly mauled by Mr Robinson's great danes at the MP's home at Godalming, Surrey. He had gone there to express his sympathy after hearing that Mr Robinson had accidentally shot his young son in the foot. Mr Robinson refused to comment yesterday.

Paula Holmes, aged two, of Bolton, Greater Manchester, was recovering yesterday after being bitten in the face by an American pit bull terrier.

Leading article, page 15

Rape trials 'a second ordeal'

A leading woman QC has accused the courts of treating rape victims brutally, forcing them to undergo a second ordeal at the hands of insensitive judges, juries, male lawyers and court officials. Helena Kennedy, QC, claims officials in some courts also direct the public to sex cases. As a result, she says, the public gallery is always packed for a rape trial. "It's about public humiliation," she says in a BBC documentary tomorrow, *Inside Story: A Very Serious Offence*. She wants trials held in smaller courts.

Boxer remanded

Tony Collins, the WBC light middleweight world boxing champion, was committed for trial to Winchester crown court by magistrates at Aldershot, Hampshire, yesterday on five charges, including assaulting a policeman and escaping from custody after being arrested. A charge of assaulting the hostess of a party that he allegedly gatecrashed was dropped. Mr Collins, aged 21, was remanded on bail.

Doctor jailed

Dr Magdi Syed-Ahmed, aged 41, a hospital surgeon, of Muswell Hill, north London, was jailed for five years at Southwark crown court for raping a 27-year-old woman after giving her a lift home from a wine bar.

Police 'failing to deal with racism'

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are failing to respond vigorously enough to an apparent rising tide of racial harassment in Britain's inner cities, according to a report published today by the charity Victim Support.

The report catalogues scores of alleged cases of racial abuse and attacks suffered mainly by blacks and Asians in the inner London boroughs of Camden, Newham and Southwark between January 1989 and May 1990. Some of the incidents, including one where a Bengali boy was knifed in the throat by two white boys, involved serious assault.

While police generally handled the complaints politely, the victims often felt "the police actually did nothing as the perpetrators were neither arrested nor charged".

On one occasion, a young Asian man who had been beaten up by his white neighbour was charged by police after his assailant had made a cross-allegation of assault, the report says.

The Metropolitan Police said the report's criticisms of the force were out of date as, during 1990, it had introduced new guidelines designed to increase the reporting and investigation of racial harassment. Tackling racial attacks was now one of the force's chief priorities.

The stolen antiques roadshow

By PETER DAVENPORT

ONE elderly woman, walking with the aid of a stick, came looking for a priceless collection of stolen French furniture; another had travelled more than 50 miles in the hope of recovering an engagement ring that had a sentimental value beyond money.

Their destination was a garage behind the police station in the Yorkshire market town of Northallerton. Detectives investigating a trade in stolen antiques worth more

than £1 million between the north of England and Italy had laid out their haul from a 60ft articulated lorry and trailer in the hope of identifying the original owners.

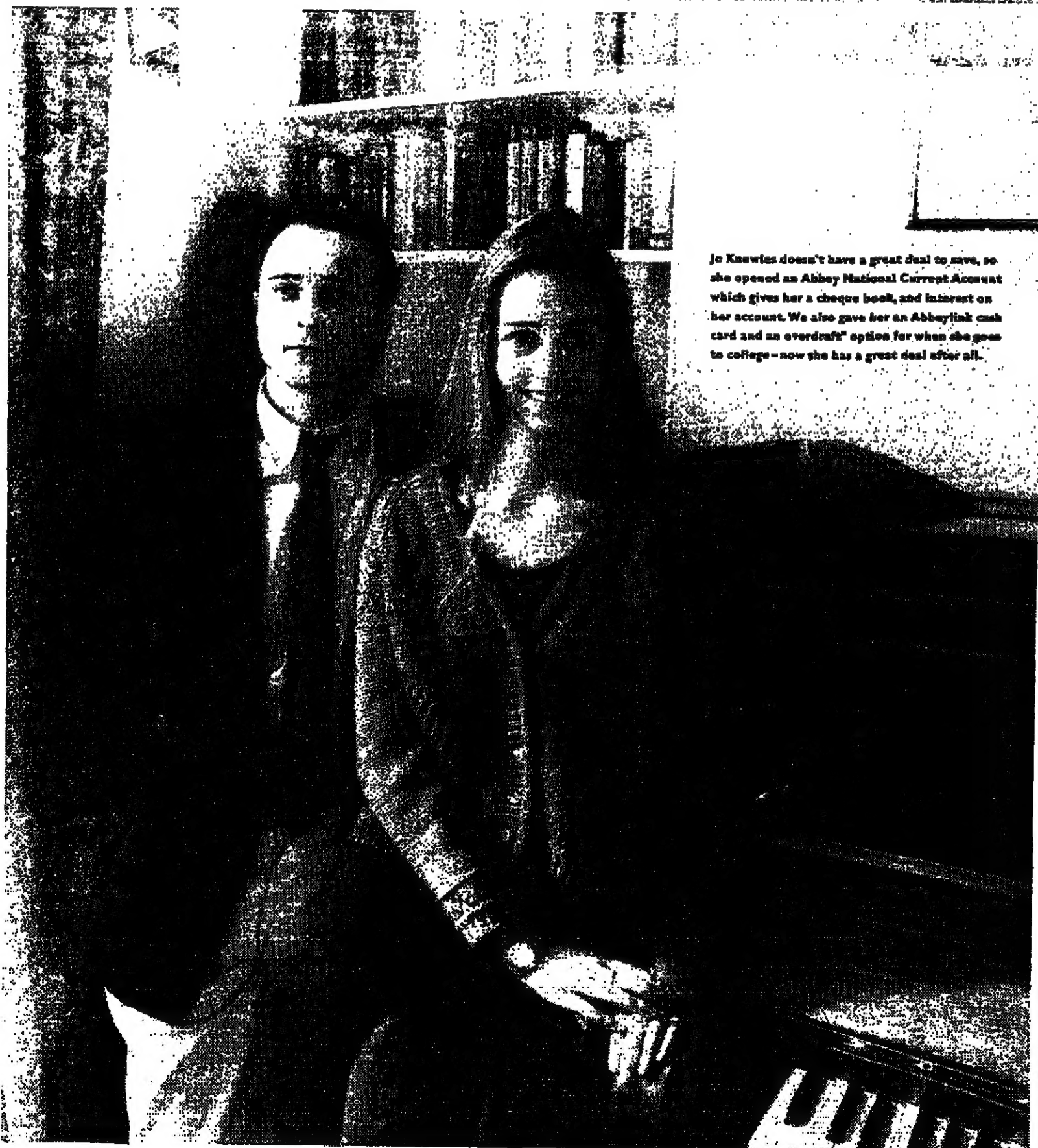
In the first half an hour yesterday more than 50 people had given their names to detectives before browsing around more than 500 pieces of furniture, paintings, silverware, ceramics, bronze casts, ivory and jewellery.

It was a day of mixed fortunes. The woman who had French furniture stolen in two

burglaries from her house in Middlesbrough left disappointed. "I am afraid my things were much better than the furniture I saw on display," she said.

A woman who travelled from Wakefield told police that she was 99 per cent certain that a four-piece silver tea-set on display was among £6,000-worth of goods stolen from her home two years ago. "I really came here hoping to find the engagement ring they stole. It had great sentimental meaning to me."

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802. *Written quotations available on request. Not available to persons under 18.

صلى الله عليه وسلم

World population rise may imperil mankind, UN says

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE world's population could double within the next 100 years, threatening human survival, a United Nations agency report said yesterday.

During the next ten years, a billion more people — equivalent to the present population of China — will crowd the planet. Forecasts made two years ago of more than 8.5 billion people by the year 2025 have been revised to include another 38 million — a new South Africa or Spain.

Unless ambitious family planning programmes in developing countries meet their targets, the future for mankind is ominous, the UN Population Fund report said.

The consequences of failure include chronic food shortages, rising infant and maternal mortality, and huge migrations from the poorest nations, Nafis Sadik, executive director of the fund, told a news conference in London.

The world population, now 5.4 billion and growing by 250,000 a day, is expected to reach 6.4 billion by 2001. Instead of stabilising at about 10.2 billion by 2085, as is hoped, it may reach that total 25 years earlier, and could soar by another billion in the 22nd century, Dr Sadik said.

The largest relative increases will occur in Africa. By the end of this century, the continent is expected to have 900 million people, up from 650 million today. The population of Nigeria, its most populous country, will double within the next 20 years from its present 108 million.

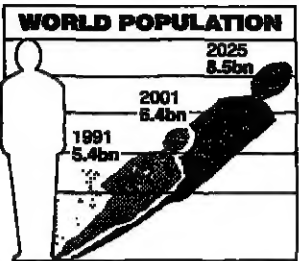
Huge loss of life from famine, Aids and natural disasters, such as the Bangladesh cyclone, will have no lasting impact on the burgeoning populations of the worst-affected regions of Africa and southern Asia, Dr Sadik said.

Population growth is slowest in Europe. Britain's population is expected merely to grow from the present 57.2 million to 59.7 million by 2025. During the same period, France's will grow by about five million and Italy's will drop by four million.

The United States, which has 250 million inhabitants now, will have almost 300 million by 2025. China's total will grow to more than 1.5 billion, but the increase is slowing because of the success of family planning policies.

To stabilise the world population at 10.2 billion by 2085, the number of couples using contraception in the developing world must rise from 381 million last year to 567 million by 2000, the report says, lowering global fertility from 3.8 births per woman to 3.3.

Reaching our family planning and fertility targets for the next decade will be critical for future progress, and even for human survival in the next century," Dr Sadik said.



Disaster enquiry reform sought

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE government has set up a team of officials to look at ways of reforming the legal machinery for handling the aftermath of disasters such as Zeebrugge or the Marchioness.

The enquiry reflects concern in the legal profession at the confusing range of enquiries that at present follow disasters, including inquests, public enquiries and possibly criminal investigations.

Officials, who are drawn from departments including the Home Office, the Lord Chancellor's, trade and industry and law officers, will look at the role of the inquest and its relationship with the public enquiry. They will also examine the role of investigating authorities, and how any criminal investigation ties in with the needs of survivors and relatives for a public airing of events.

Michael Napier, of the law firm Pannone Napier, which specialises in representing victims and relatives of disasters, said the Marchioness case was a typical example of how the present system failed. In August it would be two years since the riverboat tragedy. "Yet there is now to be a retrial and the relatives and victims are still awaiting a full open enquiry into the facts."

"The sequence of events there has been confusion on top of confusion, with the inquest held up because of the prosecution; then the prosecution going ahead, then a retrial and now we will have to wait even longer before the secretary of state refers to a public enquiry. The victims have suffered a very raw deal."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney-General, indicated that government officials were to look at possibilities such as combining the inquest with a public enquiry. A larger enquiry could take under its wing the questions that coroners' inquests have to answer, namely the circumstances in which the victims met their deaths, he said.

Law Times, pages 27, 29

Farmers call for nitrogen rations to cut production

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

HUGH Oliver-Bellasis is the driving force behind a group of farmers with views that would have been considered heresy not so many years ago. They believe that lowering production by compulsory cuts in the use of nitrogen fertilisers may be the only way to save agriculture and the countryside.

A nitrogen working party has been set up by the National Farmers' Union to look at the concept and is expected to issue an interim report next month. While the NFU may not endorse the idea fully, it will certainly not dismiss it out of hand.

Mr Oliver-Bellasis, who spent 17 years in the Welsh Guards before taking over the family farm near Basingstoke, Hampshire, 12 years ago, won an early skirmish in his campaign by persuading the Prince of Wales, fellow landowner, shooting companion and the country's best-known champion of organic farming, to lend his support to compulsory nitrogen rationing. The Prince pledged that support in a speech last March to the Royal Agricultural Society of England, of which he is president.

Senior officials at the agriculture ministry are said to have tried to get the prince to delete or amend that part of his speech. In a recent Commons debate, John Gummer, the agriculture minister, said the idea was unworkable and unenforceable. Many big farmers,



grown and the local soil and climatic conditions and so on, but would be calculated to deliver a 20 per cent cut in crop output. If the political will is there I see no reason why such a scheme should not work."

A 20 per cent cut in production would, in theory, save the £2.5 billion now spent annually by the EC on the storage and subsidised export of cereal surpluses. That would be used to compensate farmers for loss of production income. It would also be used to pay them to restore wildlife habitats by creating uncultivated corridors across their land and six-metre strips, or "conservation headlands", at the ends of arable fields that would not be sprayed with herbicides.

A further compulsory element in the scheme would be a switch from winter-sown to spring-sown cereals, which are more attractive to wildlife and reduce output because of the shorter growing season.

Extra payments would be offered for options such as maintaining hedgerows, planting new woodland and reducing pesticide use. The nitrogen quota scheme would not reduce spending on agriculture. Protection against cheaper imports from outside the EC would still be needed. Consumers would continue to subsidise farmers, but would get an enhanced countryside in return. The dumping of food surpluses on markets outside the EC, the main complaint of the Community's trading partners, would cease.

"We are proposing that every farm throughout the European Community should be allocated a nitrogen ration," he said. "The precise amount would depend on past use, crops

Rare seal heads for Pole

By KERRY GILL

A RARE ringed seal, one of a species last seen off the English coast more than 50 years ago, will today be flown from its temporary home in Norfolk for release in the sea off Shetland.

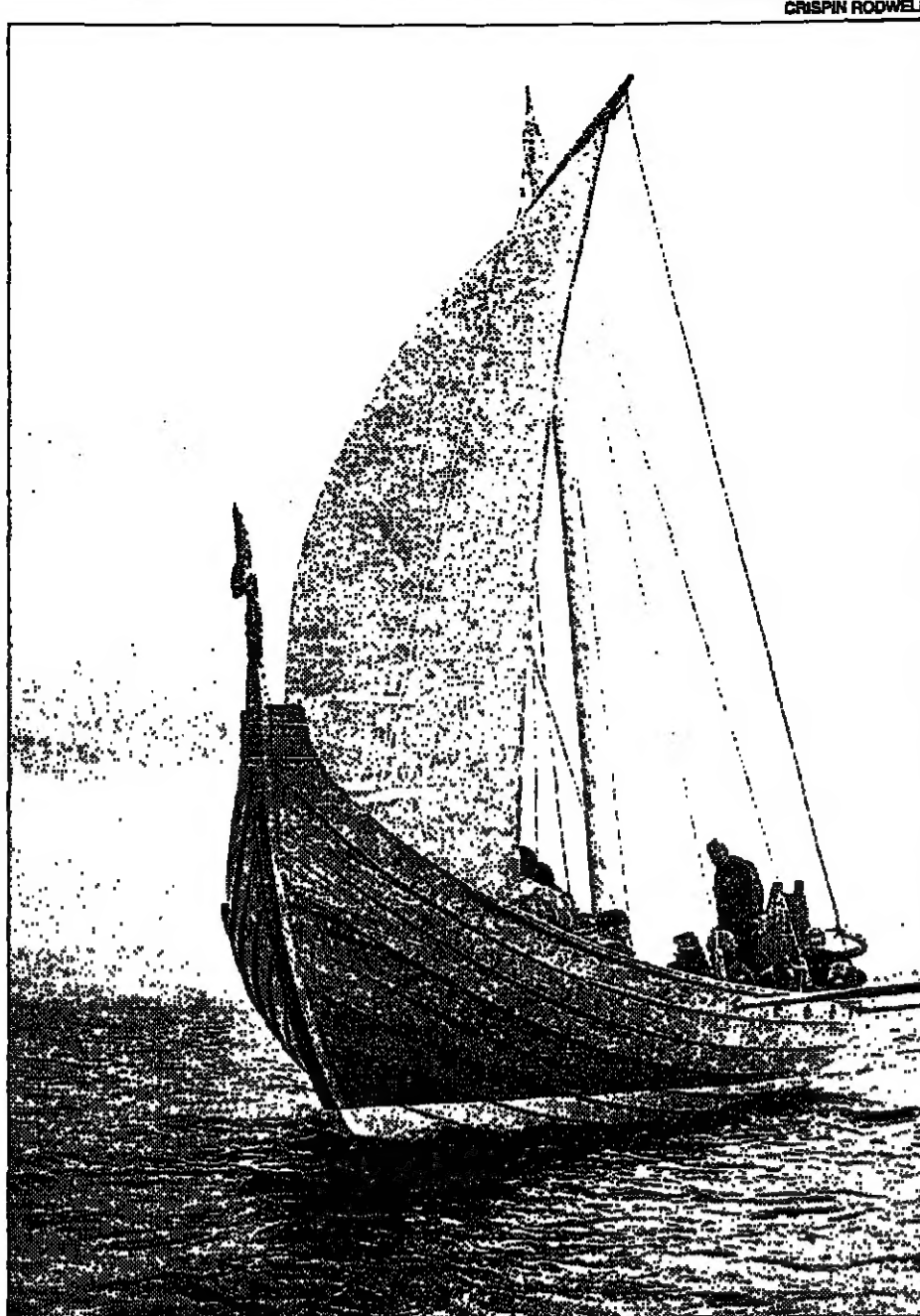
The year-old seal, distinguished by its silver coat and dark markings, blundered on to the Northumbrian coast, more than 1,000 miles from its natural North Pole habitat, four months ago. It is believed that it drifted south on an ice floe and became lost. The seal, named Pookie by the RSPCA, was found exhausted on the beach and taken to the society's seal unit at Docking in Norfolk.

Today, with the help of Shell Expro and Air UK, Pookie will begin her journey back to the North Pole where ringed seals live and breed on pack ice. Staff at the unit nursed the seal back to health and she has since increased her weight from 11 to 16 kilograms.

Pookie will be flown to Shetland and released in the cold waters off the islands, where the species is sometimes seen. Ian Robinson, an RSPCA veterinary surgeon, said: "We are hoping her

natural instincts will then take her off in the right direction. We think Pookie may have been taken for a ride on an ice floe which broke away. She appears to have become disorientated and swum off in the wrong direction."

The first leg of the seal's journey will be provided by an aircraft belonging to Air UK. She will be placed in a crate and flown to Aberdeen where the oil operators Shell Expro will transfer her to a charter flight to Sumburgh, Shetland. The last recorded sighting of a ringed seal so far south occurred in 1940 off the Isle of Man.



Seams fine: Wallace Clerk at the helm of his Scottish war galley during a trial sail on Lough Foyle. He plans to take the craft from Co Galway to the Outer Hebrides in honour of Somerset the Norse Slayer, first Lord of the Isles. The galley is propelled either by 16 oars, with oarsmen working in shifts, or its Irish linen sail

Seat belts campaign off to a flying start

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTOPHER Chope, the minister for roads, was yesterday fired at a brick wall to prove that wearing a seat belt in the rear of a car could save dozens of lives every year.

The stunt was no act of faith by the minister. He knew that the 5mph impact on a specially designed sled would be safe.

Mr Chope was launching a £1 million campaign to prepare motorists for July 1 when wearing rear seat belts becomes compulsory.

Transport department statistics show that during 1988 there were more than 20,000 rear-seat casualties, including 300 deaths and 4,000 serious injuries, among people who were not wearing seat belts. The Transport and Road Research Laboratory said that adults were twice as likely to be injured in rear seats than in the front, now that most front-seat occupants wore belts. Being thrown out of the car was the most common cause of severe injuries for rear-seat passengers. But unrestrained rear-seat passengers were also a danger to the driver and front-seat passenger.

The AA estimates that more than 100 lives and 1,000 serious injuries could be saved annually by the compulsory wearing of rear seat belts.

Regulations will be debated in the Commons and the Lords next week, but seem certain to be voted through.

Watson leads in London chess

William Watson, the British grandmaster, has taken the lead in the Watson Farley and Williams international chess challenge in London (Raymond Keene writes). In round nine Watson swiftly defeated the Danish grandmaster Bent Larsen, while his main rival, the former Russian now German grandmaster Alexander Halifman, lost against the English Olympic team member Julian Hodgson.

Leading scores: Watson (London) 6½ points; Halifman 6 points; Wells (Oxford) 5½ points; Conquest (Bristol) 5 points; Hektor (Swedish), King (London) all 5 points; Larsen 4½ points.

Gas leak fine

A chemical company was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay £8,000 costs for exposing employees in Norwich to inflammable and toxic toluene gas. Rhone-Poulenc admitted failing to ensure the safety of employees at the city's crown court. Nobody was hurt in the escape.

Fingers burnt

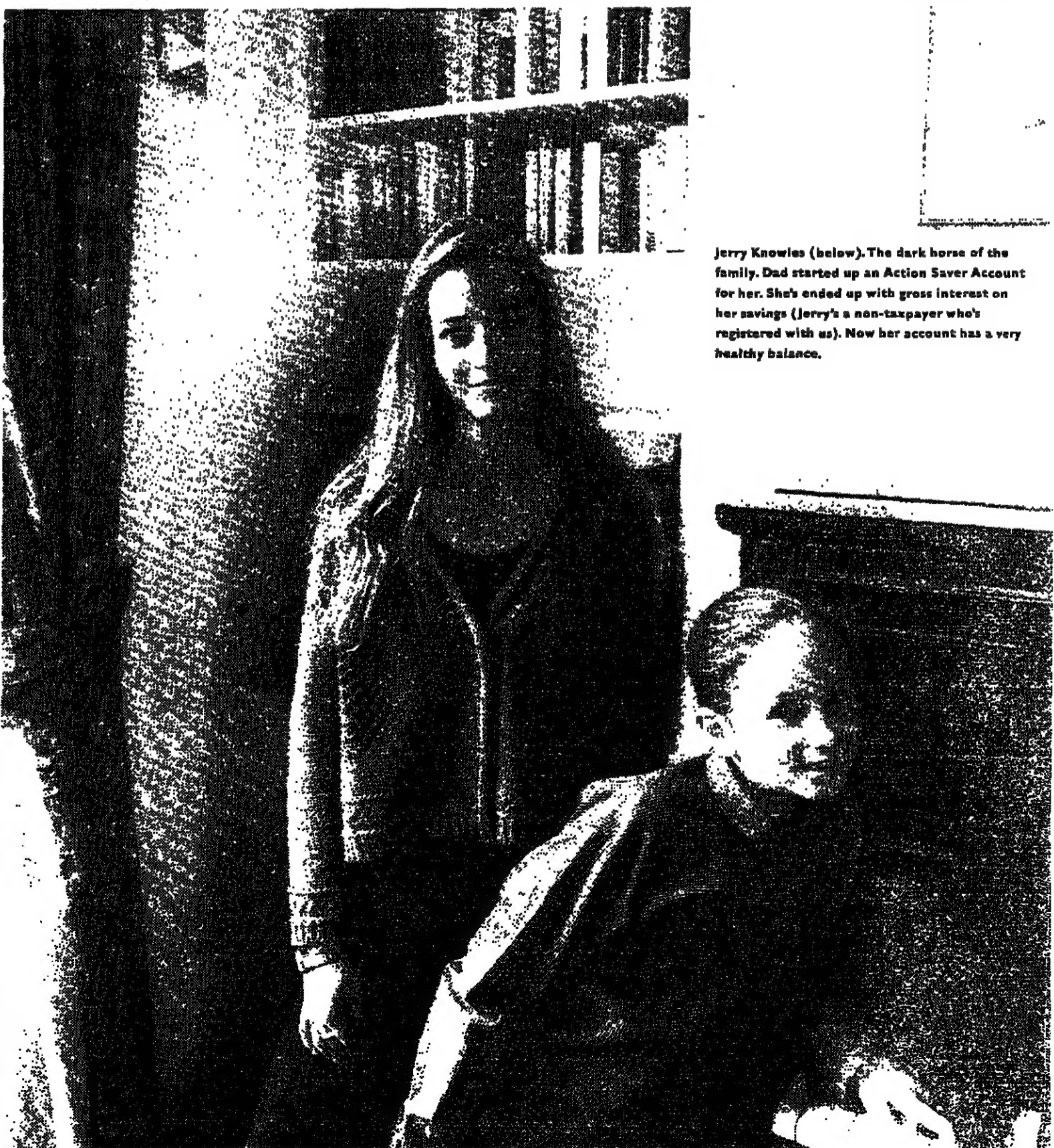
A businessman who burnt down his furniture warehouse to claim the insurance money only to discover that his premiums had not been paid was jailed for three and a half years. Johan Pruisen, of Guinness, Humberstone, admitted arson.

Eaglet hatched

England's only pair of breeding golden eagles have hatched a chick in their eyrie at the Haweswater reserve in the Lake District.

Diary, page 14

LIKE DAUGHTER LIKE sister



Jerry Knowles (below). The dark horse of the family. Dad started up an Action Saver Account for her. She's ended up with gross interest on her savings (Jerry's a non-taxpayer who's registered with us). Now her account has a very healthy balance.

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Tories seek to exploit muddle over Labour pledges on spending

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservatives said yesterday that the Opposition's promises to improve public services were in tatters after John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, appeared to suggest that a future Labour government would spend less than the Tories.

The accusation was made by David Mellor, Treasury chief secretary, after Mr Smith said that Neil Kinnock's promise of an extra £20 billion for the public services would not be in addition to the Treasury's published plans for increased expenditure over the next few years.

The dispute comes in the wake of sharp exchanges on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme. Mr Smith said that Mr Mellor was talking rubbish, but the broadcast left an impression both bizarre and unhelpful to Labour: that the Tories would spend more money than their opponents while cutting income tax. Labour sources sought to repair the damage by arguing that the Treasury projections were over-optimistic on inflation and growth and ignored the costs of future tax cuts.

Asked if the £20 billion was on top of the almost £40 billion planned by the government, Mr Smith said: "What Neil Kinnock did was to use as an example the fact that if you get 2½ per cent growth... that is what you get in extra public expenditure. But what was being attempted by John Major was to add that on top of all the public expenditure programmes that have been announced. We do not accept that is reasonable."

The prime minister told Scottish Tories on Friday that if Mr Kinnock's promised £20 billion was in addition to existing planned spending increases, it would push up the basic rate of income tax by 10p. Mr Mellor said that Mr Kinnock had been waving his £20 billion figure around as evidence of the better deal Labour was offering to the public services. Yet he was promising to improve the public services by spending half the money the government had already committed

to the public sector over the next three years.

Mr Smith countered by arguing that it was impossible for the Conservatives to commit themselves to slash the basic rate of income tax by 5p and to maintain their public spending plans without making other changes. The books could be balanced only by increasing VAT by 4½ per cent or by cutting public spending. Tory spending plans were not to be taken seriously.

He amplified that point in a speech last night in Blackpool in which he sought to dent the Tories' reputation as the party of low taxation and to force them to retreat from their 20p basic rate target. Mr Smith said that Treasury figures showed that the tax burden under the Tories had risen from 34.8 per cent of gross domestic product in 1978-9 to 37.75 per cent in 1990-1. Reducing the basic rate to 20p over five years would cost £30 billion and would mean either less spending on schools and hospitals or the "hidden agenda" of higher VAT.



Party spirit: the Liberal Democrat candidate in Thursday's by-election at Monmouth, Frances David, centre, in cheerful mood with two of her supporters during a visit to Chepstow Castle



Big rise claimed in cash for coal

Figures issued by David Heathcoat-Amory, energy under secretary, show a big increase in investment in the coal industry under the Conservative government.

In a Commons written answer, he said that between 1974 and 1979 the government assisted British Coal in financing £1,475 million of new investment and provided £401 million in grant aid. Between 1979 and 1990 the figures were £7,212 million and £14,826 million respectively.

4,000 rush for Brussels jobs

The European "fast stream" initiative, which is intended to encourage more British civil servants to work for the European Commission in Brussels, has attracted 4,000 applications this year and more than half of the 30 places available have been allocated, Tim Renton, the civil service minister, said at question time.

Metric drink considered

The trade and industry department has received 39 replies from trade interests, consumer organisations and others to its consultation paper on selling spirits in metric measures rather than the present measure of one-sixth of a gill, Edward Leigh, under secretary, said in a written reply.

Clean power

If the electricity at present generated by nuclear power were generated by coal-fired power stations, carbon emissions would increase by 15 million tons a year, more than 10 per cent above present levels, John Wakeham, the energy secretary, said in a written reply.

Wind studies

Government expenditure on wind energy research in the past financial year was £4.5 million and on tidal power research £1.9 million, Colin Moynihan, energy under secretary, said in a written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Health; prime minister. Debates on Opposition motions on the NHS and on help for the Third World.
Lords (2.30): Criminal justice bill, report.

Diplock court plea rejected

A MOVE by Opposition peers to persuade the government to introduce "multi-judge" courts in Northern Ireland instead of the present single-judge Diplock courts was rejected by the government yesterday.

The suggestion came during the House of Lords committee stage of the Northern Ireland (emergency powers) bill, the main measure in the province for dealing with alleged terrorist cases; it has to be renewed regularly.

Lord Frye-Davies, for the Opposition, said that there should be two or more judges.

"The multi-judge court would greatly strengthen confidence in the courts among the nationalist inhabitants in the province", he said.

He suggested that mainland judges could serve duty tours in Northern Ireland.

Lord Fitt, former leader of the SDLP, said that Labour's proposal "would give the impression that the government was bending over backwards to see that justice was done".

Lord Beldred, for the government, said that there were already safeguards, including appeals to three-judge courts. More judges would be needed to meet the Opposition's demand and it was not certain that sufficient could be found.

Lord Colclough, who as Sir Humphrey Atkins was Northern Ireland secretary, supported the continuation of the single-judge courts. He said that there were fewer appeals from them than from courts with juries. That could only mean that there was confidence in justice being done.

Fewer fraudulent workers sacked

By JOHN WINDER

FEWER than half of the civil servants found to have defrauded the defence ministry in recent years have been dismissed or have resigned as a consequence, the Commons public accounts committee was told last night.

Sir Michael Quinlan, permanent under secretary at the ministry, and its civil service head, said that the policy was to dismiss or enforce the resignation of offenders unless there were exceptional circumstances, but the question of what was exceptional was left to line managers. That did not mean that it was too lightly interpreted.

Robert Sheldon, Labour chairman of the committee, which has scrutinised allegations of fraud totalling thousands of pounds, said that the previous figures showed that 53 per cent of those found guilty of fraud had been dismissed or had resigned, but the latest figures showed that that proportion had fallen to 45 per cent.

A National Audit Office report before the committee showed that disciplinary action was taken against all service personnel involved in fraud, but only 33 per cent were dismissed during the per-



Sir Michael: surprised by result of policy

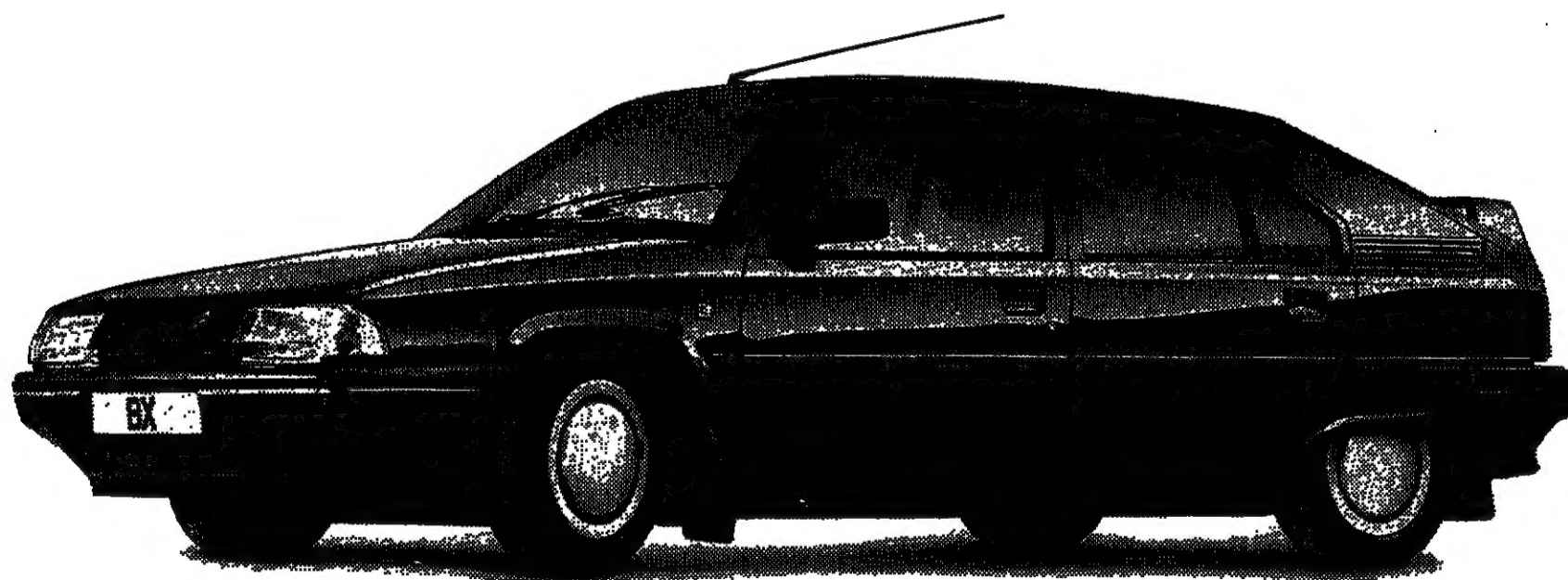
iod under review, between 1984 and 1989.

Sir Michael said that he attached importance to the policy of dismissing civil servants, but whether there were special circumstances justifying departure from that had to be left to line management. It was in a sense a quasi-judicial process and the amount of interference from on high had to be limited. "I am surprised, I must say, at the extent of the exceptions. I do not believe it to be because that policy is widely sounded or ignored."

Mr Sheldon said that the rule was that dismissal would follow where fraud was established save in exceptional circumstances. Those circumstances seemed to apply to 55 per cent of cases.

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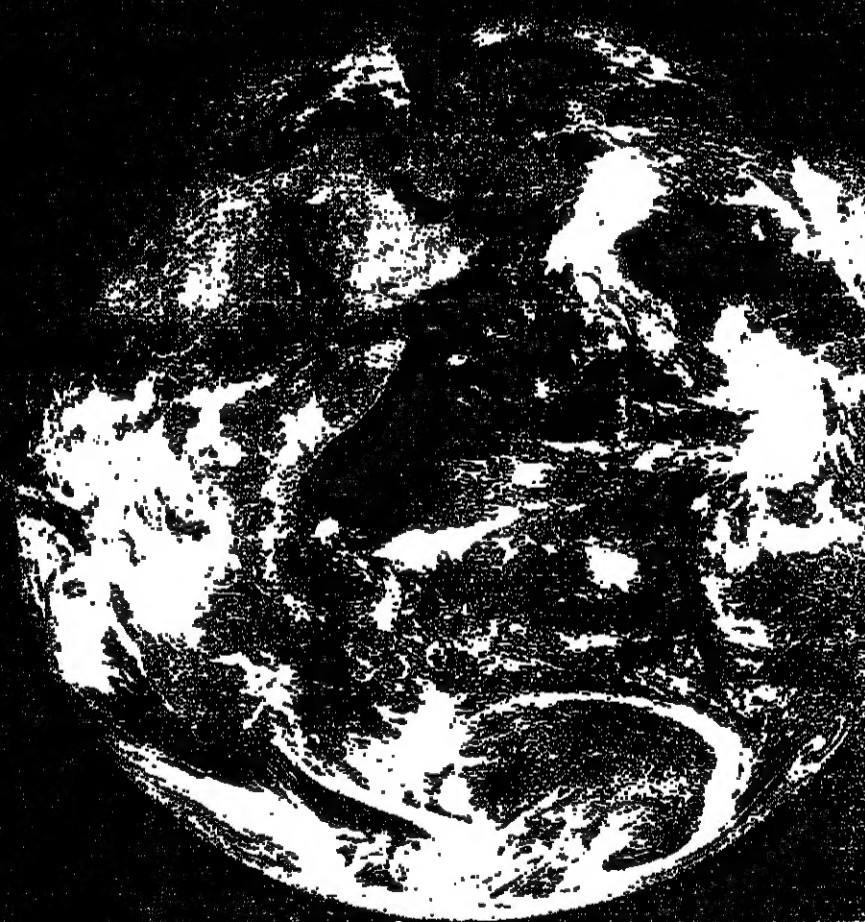
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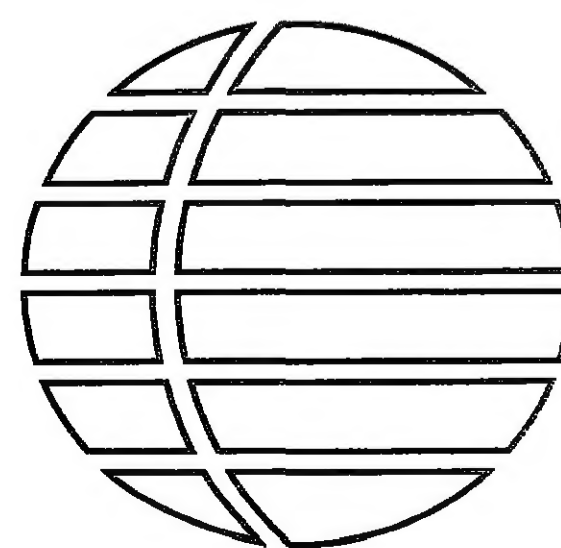
The Decade of Destruction, Adrian Cowell's ten-year chronicle of the systematic destruction of the Brazilian rainforest came from us.

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Winnie Mandela's conviction deepens divisions as black movement faces toughest test

Dramatic fall from grace for militant mother of the nation

THE decline and dramatic fall of Winnie Mandela began on a warm summer night in Soweto when a 14-year-old boy was taken from her home to nearby waste ground and murdered by her chief henchman. The youth's name was Stompie Moeketsi, now a legend in his native Orange Free State as the leader of an army of child activists who fought police in the name of the anti-apartheid struggle.

In 1988 he fell foul of Mrs Mandela, then as now an imperious figure with enormous influence in black townships as the wife of Nelson Mandela and as de facto leader of the African National Congress in her own right. During her trial, it was alleged Moeketsi had been sexually abused by a white clergyman, and more seriously that he had been a police informer.

No conclusive evidence emerged to substantiate either charge, but by then sentence had already been carried out by Jerry Richardson, the leader of Mrs Mandela's so-called United Football Club, who was sentenced to death last year for Moeketsi's murder. The affair lifted the lid on a cauldron of resentment and anger in Soweto against Mrs Mandela, who was accused by her own people of acting in a high-handed and often violent manner against anyone who challenged her authority. A particular grievance was her practice of presiding over "people's courts" which frequently sentenced alleged offenders to public whippings.

A month after Moeketsi's decomposing body was discovered, anti-apartheid leaders publicly accused her of complicity in the murder and her muscular entourage of conducting a reign of terror. Under the banner of the United Democratic Front, the principal surrogate of the then banned ANC, they accused her of violating the human rights she once fought to uphold and declared her a political and social outcast. The "mother of the nation" became known to her critics as the "mugger of the nation".

The state authorities took longer to react, possibly because of political considerations, but eventually Richardson was brought to trial in what was regarded as a test case. When the judge found that Mrs Mandela had been present when Moeketsi and three other young men were beaten at her home, there was no longer any pretext for not prosecuting her.

There followed a catalogue of blatant intimidation which threatened to make a mockery of the South African judicial system. Four co-defendants skipped bail, a key state witness vanished shortly after-

The stigma will jeopardise any pretensions she has to becoming the first lady of the "new" South Africa, writes Gavin Bell

wards (having been last seen escorted from a church mission by ANC members), and the surviving plaintiffs agreed to testify only after being placed under protection.

On the basis of Mr Justice M.S. Stegmann's verdict, Mrs Mandela persistently lied in concocting an alibi which was present only when her trial began in February, two years after the offences were committed. Her defence counsel's assertion that she was the victim of a conspiracy was rejected by Mr Justice Stegmann with a ruling which bordered on contempt.

The implications for the ANC, her husband, and the country's turbulent transition to democracy are considerable. Nelson Mandela, the ANC patriarch, is already showing signs of strain as a result of his wife's activities, according to sources close to



Mbeki reported to have been slapped by Mandela

him. At a time when South Africa demands his undivided attention, he is said to be deeply troubled and disconcerted by Mrs Mandela's tribulations. The problem is that he remains deeply in love with his tempestuous wife.

His devotion was expressed eloquently in a letter to her from prison in 1983: "At my age I would have expected all the urges of youth to have faded away. But it does not appear to be so. The mere sight of you, even the thought of you, kindles a thousand fires in me." Shortly after her trial began, he told a news conference: "We have no hesitation in asserting her innocence."

Even if Mrs Mandela re-

ceives a suspended sentence, the stigma of her conviction will jeopardise any remaining pretensions she has to becoming the first lady of the "new" South Africa. Her ambitions were checked last month when she was soundly beaten for the post of president of the ANC's women's league by Gertrude Shope, a long-time exile.

Mrs Mandela has another opportunity to secure a place in the national executive committee when it is enlarged from 35 members to 128 at an ANC national congress in July. But there are increasingly volatile murmurs of dissent within the organisation at her bid for power. When she was appointed head of the ANC social welfare department last year, more than 100 branches in the Johannesburg area alone sent letters of protest to the national headquarters.

Reports have emerged of sharp exchanges between Mrs Mandela and Thabo Mbeki, the urban director of foreign affairs, and other senior officials who have criticised her lack of commitment, as head of social welfare, to returning exiles. One argument at ANC headquarters is reliably reported to have ended with Mrs Mandela slapping Mr Mbeki.

The danger for the ANC is that various factions are taking sides on the Mrs Mandela affair, creating further tensions in an already fractious organisation. She remains popular among militant youth, some ageing leaders anxious to win her grace and favour for their political survival, and radical figures such as Chris Hani, the chief of staff of the ANC armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe.

Parallels with Lady Macbeth have been drawn, but her high public profile, her outspoken statements, and her extravagant taste in clothes cast her more in the role of an African Imelda Marcos. Mrs Mandela, aged 57, still commands respect and compassion from associates for her outstanding courage and commitment to the anti-apartheid movement during years of persecution. Repeatedly banned, banished and imprisoned, she endured her ordeal in the absence of her husband with commendable fortitude.

The question now is whether her suffering inflicted emotional and psychological damage which should disqualify her from political office — or even influence. Irrespective of her sentence to be pronounced today, the controversy will continue as long as she perceives herself to be the first lady of the black nationalist movement.

Mandela guilty, page 1



The victim: Stompie Moeketsi, aged 14, whose abduction and death first led to allegations against Winnie Mandela and her group of bodyguards

No ruling on church minister

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

JUSTICE Michael Stegmann said yesterday that it was not his task to rule on the conduct of the Rev Paul Verryn. The defence had claimed that three youths and a boy had been removed from a Methodist church manse in Soweto because of homosexual advances by the minister.

The prosecution's main witnesses, Kenneth Kgase and Thabiso Mono, both said they had spent their first night in the manse in the minister's double bed.

Bishop Peter Storey of the Methodist church testified that he had advised the minister to keep his bedroom off limits to boys at the manse, but said his willingness to share his bed indicated his commitment to his pastorate. There was a shortage of beds at the manse as there was in the rest of Soweto, and an investigation by church and Soweto community leaders had found allegations against Mr Verryn were groundless.

Inkatha admits camp killings

By RAY KENNEDY

THE Zulu Inkatha movement has admitted responsibility for an attack for the first time since the carnage in South African black townships started nine months ago.

The move comes in the wake of the killings on Sunday in the Swanesville squatter camp outside Kagiso township, west of Johannesburg, where at least 27 people died in a raid by 1,000 Zulu Inkatha dwellers.

Suzanne Vos, an official Inkatha spokesman, said yesterday that the hostel dwellers who attacked the camp were reacting to the kidnapping the previous night of two hostel residents. She said they had tried to negotiate the men's release before the attack, but it was not known if they were still alive.

Police said that they arrested six people and seized an AK47 rifle, four pistols and ammunition during a raid on a hostel after the attack. They reported that 37 people, including the 27 killed at Swanesville, had died in political violence since Sunday.

Inkatha's admission that it had deliberately launched the attack on the squatter camp followed a warning given by Adriaan Vlok, the law and order minister, that the government would consider re-imposing a state of emergency and banning political organisations if negotiations failed to halt the violence.

The African National Congress described Mr Vlok's statement as "blatant blackmail". It repeated its demand that President de Klerk should dismiss Mr Vlok from his cabinet and described his attitude as "belonging to the dark ages of the past which President de Klerk and other Nationalist party leaders claim the government has irrevocably abandoned."

Referring to rare police action against farmers attacking squatters at the weekend, Robert van Tongeren, leader of the extreme right-wing Boersat party, branded the government an enemy of the Boers (rural white Afrikaners) people.

ANC's woes growing at critical time

ANC politics could delay progress towards settlement of township violence and meaningful talks on the future, R. W. Johnson writes

THE conviction of Winnie Mandela on serious charges adds to the woes of the ANC at the most critical time since it was legalised and its leaders were released from jail. Last week only late concessions by President de Klerk averted the ANC's withdrawal from talks on the future constitution of South Africa.

But the fundamental problem of the growing township violence, and the confrontation between the Inkatha Freedom party and the ANC, is no nearer a solution.

There can be no meaningful talks on South Africa's future until the security situation becomes the object of proper negotiation. How can Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the leader of Inkatha and Nelson Mandela, the deputy president of the ANC, sit round the same table if their supporters are slaughtering one another in the streets? It is impossible to imagine the white electorate agreeing to hand power to blacks while there seems like a recipe for still greater violence. Inkatha and the ANC must both accept a share of responsibility for the violence, and sit down with the government to work out a peace settlement which all three parties agree to observe and police.

Unhappily, the ANC's internal politics is likely to delay this process until July, when its national conference will be held. Many within the leadership were shaken by the military tone of the rank and file at last December's consultative conference, and their willingness to rebuke publicly such important figures in the movement as Thabo Mbeki and, implicitly, Mr Mandela himself.

In the face of the slaughter and this rhetoric, even Mr Mandela has now backed off a long way. No longer will he repeat his old homily about President de Klerk being "a man of integrity", and the time when he was happy to be photographed embracing Chief Buthelezi, for all that it occurred so recently, seems far distant now. The fact is that the ANC remained united through years of exile and clandestine struggle on a trans-

scendant note of all-out defiance. So the ANC, which has never really experienced internal democracy before, is bracing itself for leadership elections and further potentially abusive behaviour by the rank and file. ANC leaders and delegates alike can imagine only too easily the crowd-pleasing demagoguery before the conference of Chief Buthelezi, Mr de Klerk and all those who deal with them.

However any delay in peace talks is extremely dangerous. Not only will hundreds more die if something is not done now but feelings on all sides will become so inflamed as to make peace almost insuperably difficult to achieve. The death toll in the townships has reached a pitch in which Mr de Klerk's warnings of civil war are not far-fetched.

The ANC view is that the violence is wholly the fault of Inkatha, abetted by the police, and that the responsibility for stopping it thus lies with the government. The police have certainly shown a dangerous complacency towards the Inkatha impus and their possession of "traditional" weapons. To this extent the ANC criticisms of the police and their minister, Adriaan Vlok, are perfectly justified.

But Inkatha's own casualty list is far too long for a one-sided explanation to be credible. Similarly, ANC attempts to pin blame on a shadowy "third force" not only lack any firm evidence but beg the question: "Would it really be possible for even the most Machiavellian third force to get black people to kill one another in such numbers if political and ethnic hostilities did not already exist?"

Mr de Klerk has now sent the army and extra police back into the townships, which together with a curfew is the only certain way to stop the violence in the short term. Last time he did this, it was so effective that even ordinary crime fell sharply and township clinics had the unwanted luxury of unoccupied beds. But the ANC protested against the army presence, and it was withdrawn.

The author is a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford.

Bihar armies keep powder dry

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S main newspapers chose the same story for the front page lead yesterday: "Bihar situation is not very alarming." This is startling news. There is a stand-off in India's most violent state, with big caste armies confronting each other with huge amounts of weaponry, but no one is willing to make the first move. It is the local equivalent of peace through mutual assured destruction.

Many politicians, especially those too poor to raise private armies, are calling for Bihar to be excluded from the general election next week, so wild are

the antics of the goondas (thugs). But the home ministry has reassured the election commission that "nothing very alarming" is going on there, and that the poll should go ahead as planned.

Bihar, the second most populous state in the country, with more than 100 million people, is not the only state declared by the election commission to be "sensitive". Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh are similarly labelled. All are prone to booth-capturing, intimidation and vote-rigging, although in practice

the very scale of numbers makes it difficult to affect the final outcome. Democracy in India looks ragged on the outside, but the core is strong.

In spite of the fact that fear of mutual destruction is keeping the peace in Bihar, the central government is taking no chances. In addition to a formidable presence of state police, 115 companies of paramilitary forces have moved into position to keep rival castes apart, as well as to prevent any Hindu-Muslim clashes. Additionally, 58,000 home guards are being mobilised. If Bihar can be kept peaceful, this will be India's least violent election, defying a consistent trend of increasing electoral bloodshed.

Dire predictions of Hindu-Muslim confrontation might also prove to be premature, since the right-wing Hindu organisation, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has veered from its customary display of political and communal ex-

trusion to one of temperance, in the hope of broadening its appeal. Although tactical rather than real, the change has sounded an unexpected note of optimism in Muslim areas of states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. So fearful have Muslims become in the pre-election period that the walled city of Old Delhi, which is predominantly Muslim, is bulging with newcomers seeking safety. Hindus, in reaction, have been moving out of the city.

The home ministry in Delhi sent a high-level team of observers to Bihar last week to find out whether anything resembling a fair election was possible. This followed a warning by Subramaniam Swamy, the law and justice minister, that democracy was all but dead in the state. Democracy is not dead, but it is certainly wounded. In a pre-poll crackdown 7,200 people have so far been arrested.



Yen millionaire will take art riches with him when he goes

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

MILLIONAIRES grappling with the problem of death duties may be interested in the solution devised by the yen multi-billionaire, Ryohei Saito, who owns the world's two most expensive paintings: he wants to have them cremated with him when he dies.

"When I pass away my family will have to pay death duties of several hundred million yen (more than £400,000). That is rather tiresome, so it will be easier to dispose of the paintings altogether along with me," he said.

Mr Saito keeps his treasures in a storeroom and has only looked at them once, according to the newspaper. "I've no

idea how many paintings are in there. I buy them so often I have lost count now," he said.

On one occasion he reportedly had the Renoir hung for a few hours in his favourite Tokyo restaurant, to gaze at while he picked at his supper-time rice bowl. "That was much nicer than looking at the thing in a Paris museum," he sighed. Since then the painting has been consigned to obscurity in the warehouse and will presumably next see the light of day on its way to the crematorium.

That the two 19th-century masterpieces will be turned to

ash with Mr Saito has provoked rage here, but Hideto Kobayashi, president of the Kobayashi Gallery, who bid on Mr Saito's behalf when he bought the Renoir and the Van Gogh, rushed to his defence. "He was only joking about having the paintings cremated," he insisted.

The Portraits of Dr Gachev bought for £48.5 million



The Portraits of Dr Gachev bought for £48.5 million

Communists do well in early Nepal results

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SUSPENSE built up yesterday as the results of Sunday's first five elections in Nepal in 32 years began to come in. The Nepali Congress party won four of the first five declared seats, but communist coalition candidates led in several constituencies, including all five in Kathmandu.

Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, the acting prime minister, risks losing his Nepali Congress seat in a tight contest. In his constituency he was trailing behind the Nepali Communist party and the National Democratic party, representing the partyless panchayat system abolished last year. The elections, for 205 members of the House of Repre-

sentatives, were the first under the new democratic constitution adopted last year which allowed political parties to stand for the first time in 32 years.

With 18 per cent of the votes counted, communists were leading in 14 constituencies, Congress candidates in five, and the Nepal Good-will party — a pro-India party — in one. The National Democrats (Chand faction) had a marginal lead in Kathmandu and some nearby districts in early returns, but soon lagged behind. In the southeast district of Jhapa, United Marxist-Leninist party candidates prosecuted in the 1970s were in the lead.

The imprisoned MPs, many of them women, were elected to parliament a year ago when the National League for Democracy scored a landslide victory. Since then the junta has refused to hand over power to the elected civilians. Diplomats said the sentences were part of the junta's destruction of all opposition and confirmation that the army intended to hang on to power. Last month army leaders said there was no chance of a handover of power, as political parties were subversive and unfit to govern.

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Soviet optimism tempers US gloom as hardliners frustrate peacemakers

Baker pins hope on Egypt to discover way round obstacles

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

HARDLINE views by the governments of Syria and Israel were threatening last night to sabotage James Baker's "last chance" mission to try to construct a Middle East peace conference out of the allied victory in the Gulf war.

Despite pledges by both Washington and Moscow to keep up efforts to bridge the gap, Mr Baker turned to Egypt — the only Arab country to have made peace with Israel, and an ally of Syria — to try to harmonise seemingly irreconcilable differences.

The Egyptian government, plagued by severe economic problems and deep internal divisions, pledged to offer its assistance. "There are still some problems but we do not consider them insurmountable," said Ezzat Abdel-Meguid, the foreign minister, who is due to be elected this week as the new secretary-general of the Arab League.

Mr Baker, the US Secretary of State, identified the stands of Israel and Syria on two key procedural issues as the main barriers to progress. He also disclosed that no agreement had yet been reached on who

would represent the Palestinians in any future conference.

Deepening gloom among American diplomats about the chances of resolving the differences was countered by greater optimism among the Soviet delegation led by Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the foreign minister, who met Mr Baker again yesterday and President Mubarak of Egypt.

"The possibilities for a conference that we have in mind are growing and the number of problems are fewer than before," said Mr Bessmertnykh, who did not provide any hard evidence to back up his rosy view of the chances.

Mr Baker, speaking after he and his Soviet counterpart had lunch with the Egyptian leader and before leaving today for what is expected to be a tough trip to Israel, with few compromises likely, pinpointed the two obstacles officials fear may yet prevent a conference being convened.

"You have one party (Israel) saying that there should be absolutely no involvement whatsoever of the United Nations and that the conference should be a one-time

affair with no ability to reconvene," he told reporters at his second news conference of the day.

"You have another party (Syria) saying there should be full UN participation and a conference of a continuing nature. I am optimistic enough to think there ought to be some way that we can resolve the two questions."

American sources said that by speaking out Mr Baker was hoping to step up pressure on Jerusalem and Damascus. But on Sunday he was rebuffed during six hours of talks with President Assad, and yesterday the pro-government *Jerusalem Post* quoted sources close to Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, in a story headlined "Jerusalem won't yield any more". Mr Baker's threat to make his mission — the fourth in two months — his last was being

treated with caution in Western circles. "If he gets the movement by either stick or carrot, I am sure he is the type of man to carry on," said a US correspondent travelling on the State Department jet. "But Mr Baker is not a person to associate himself, over the long run, with lost causes."

Mr Baker said that, in

addition to the central dispute between Israel and Syria, the question of Palestinian representation had not yet been settled. He identified the options as a Palestinian delegation, a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, or an all-Arab delegation. Israel has flatly ruled out any involvement by the Palestine Libera-

tion Organisation. American diplomats with Mr Baker hope that, as well as Egypt's middleman role, the Soviet Union can still play a vital part through its ties with Syria and the PLO. Senior Soviet sources claim the Syrian position was more flexible than was suggested by Mr Baker.

In the event of failure,

American officials said that Mr Baker was considering summoning a lower-key conference on the subject of scarce water resources and other regional issues, with the hope of eventually expanding it into negotiations over the Arab Israeli dispute.

Palace attack, page 1

Food fails to lure Kurds to Dahuk

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE United Nations, hoping to coax Kurds back to the Iraqi city of Dahuk, sent in a convoy of lorries with food and other relief supplies, but most refugees were still waiting for allied military protection before returning home.

Sporadic sniping at British marines by Iraqi troops near President Saddam Hussein's summer palace in Sarsank continued yesterday, undermining the UN attempt to convince the refugees that it is safe to return. The confidence of the Kurds was further shaken when journalists accompanying the UN convoy to Dahuk were turned back by Iraqi soldiers manning a checkpoint on the approach to the city.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, a UN special representative, who visited Dahuk yesterday, reiterated the organisation's reluctance to assume a security role in northern Iraq.

Leading article, page 15

Shamir faces US cash squeeze

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

WHEN Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, sits down tomorrow to talk to James Baker, the US Secretary of State, his inclination to resist offering concessions to the Arab world will be tempered by the knowledge that his intransigence risks damaging Israel's future prosperity.

Unemployment is rising sharply, particularly among recent arrivals from the Soviet Union. In April unemployment was 12.4 per cent higher than the previous month, with the number of jobless increasing from 124,000 to 139,700. Although the gross domestic product grew by 5.1 per cent in 1990, this fell far short of what is needed to absorb the immigration flow.

Israeli sources have made it clear that later this year the government will ask Washington for an estimated \$10 billion (£5.9 billion) in loan guarantees to help meet the cost of accommodating the new arrivals, who have swamped the housing as well as the job market.

American officials, including William Brown, the ambassador to Israel, and Senator Robert Dole, have warned Israel that it will not receive a sympathetic hearing if it does not co-operate with the administration's peace plans for the region following the Gulf war.

Mayors' handshake bridges divide

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN JERUSALEM

MOST Arab and Israeli leaders seem to need outside help to communicate with each other. But Teddy Kollek, Jerusalem's mayor, and Elias Freij, Bethlehem's mayor, showed that reconciliation takes only a simple handshake.

Mr Freij, aged 70, a leading Palestinian who supports the Palestine Liberation Organisation, made an unusual appearance on Israel's state television to congratulate Mr Kollek on his forthcoming 80th birthday. "I wish you a long life to continue to serve this special city of Jerusalem," Mr Freij said on a show dedicated to Mr Kollek.

Mr Kollek emigrated to Israel from Vienna in its pre-state era, and has been mayor of Jerusalem since 1965, two years before Israel annexed the city's Arab areas. Mr Freij, the longest-serving mayor in the occupied West Bank, has been Bethlehem's mayor since 1972.

He was one of the first Palestinians to advocate dialogue with Israel.

He appealed again on television for a resolution of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "We are destined by God to live together in this country forever, so why should we continue to fight each other?" he said. At the end the two men warmly shook hands.

Foes embrace in Saddam's lair

THE Middle East is the place where sworn enemies can, out of self-interest, switch 180 degrees and embrace each other. This remarkable manoeuvre is now happening between the Iraqi government and the Kurds trying to win some form of self-rule.

Baghdad's only fully functioning hotel is the al-Rashid, so the unlikely interplay between the adversaries is performed daily in the luxurious lobby. The Kurds, led by Masoud Barzani, head of the Kurdish Democratic party, are dramatic figures, dressed in red turbans, baggy pants and khaki cummerbunds. They look out of place in the lobby, but show no unease about being in the lair of President Saddam Hussein.

Their protectors are an odd assembly of jumpy security men, who catch all other lobby lizards by the eye. Only the wildest reporters have succeeded in talking to the Kurds, but it is a daily ritual that begins at breakfast. Soon after, the Kurds are driven away for the day, apparently

working towards a deal that both sides hope will provide confidence for the millions of Kurds refusing to return home.

Apart from comments by Mr Barzani that both sides are nearing an agreement very little has been said.

A television in the hotel's bar gives a reminder that in other areas of Iraq, Baghdad's relations with its subjects are fraught. Young Shias have been confessing to crimes as agents of Iran during the rebellion in the south. More people died when the Iraqi government confronted their revolt than when Saddam's troops successfully suppressed the Kurdish conflict.

The young men worked their way through confessions, often coaching having failed to remove that same tinge of terror seen when captured allied pilots were shown on Iraqi television. Like the Kurds, these men are also in government hands but no-body says where they are now.

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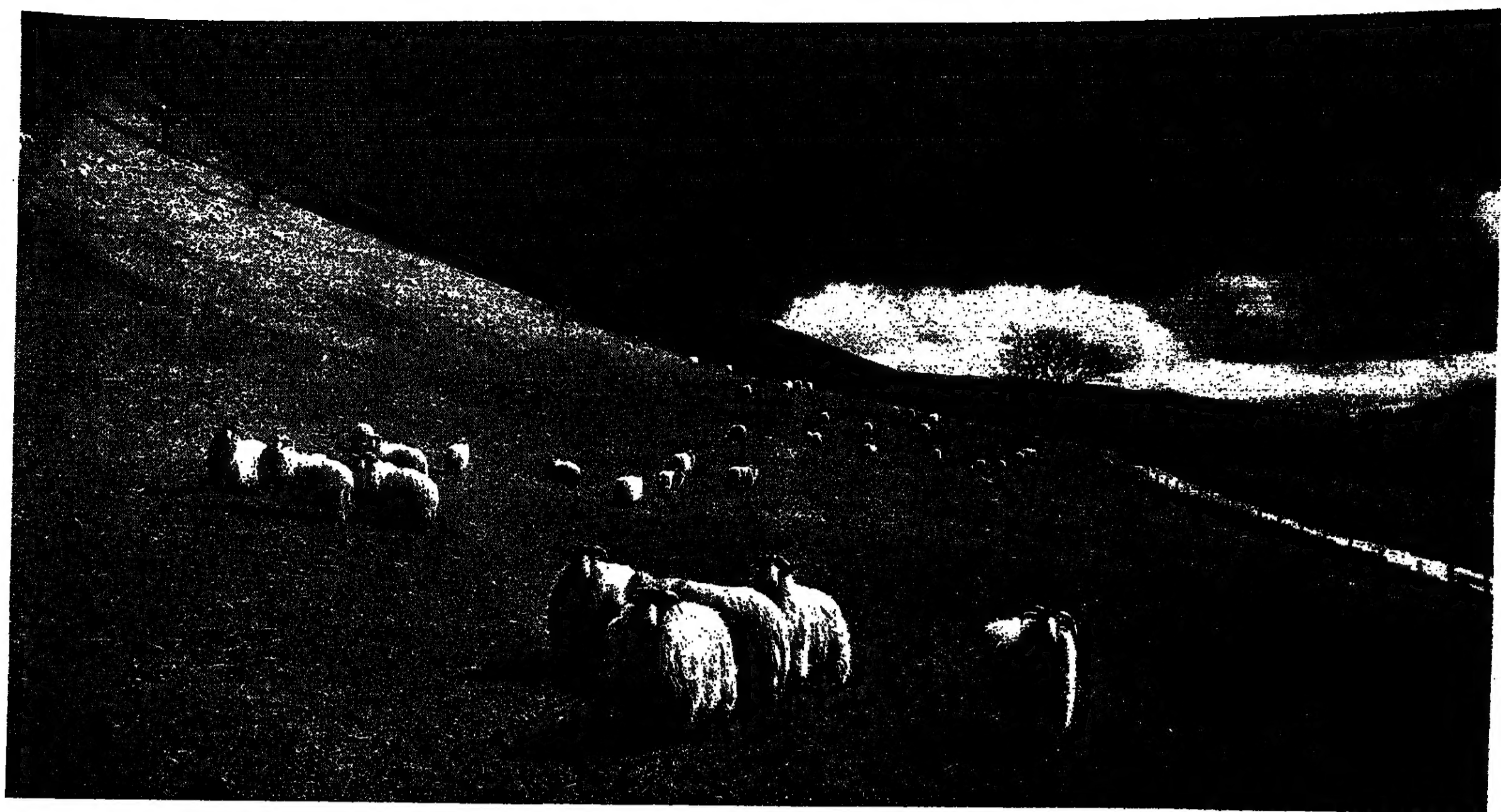
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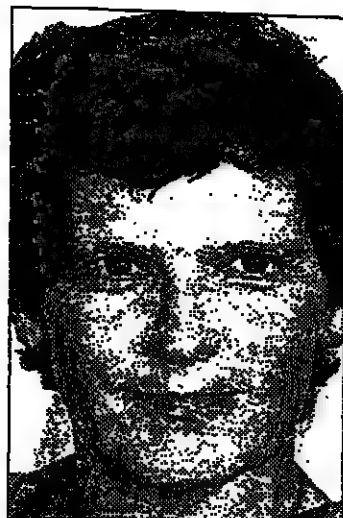
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Opposing camps dig in for German battle over abortion



Süssmuth put forward a third way to resolve divisive issue

ABOUT two and a half years ago, "Kathrin K.", a young East German girl from Jena, decided to escape from her drab communist homeland and move to a new life in the West. Now she has strong reasons to wish she had never left. She is awaiting trial for an offence which still does not exist where she was born, but for which she can now be sent to prison for up to three years.

Her crime was to have an abortion. If she had stayed in Jena she could have had one free on demand, but last January, when she travelled to The Netherlands to terminate an unwanted pregnancy without first obtaining the necessary medical permission, she broke the west German abortion law strictly observed in Catholic Bavaria where she now lives.

As the two Germanies rushed

Ian Murray reports on the inheritance of a divided Germany, two separate laws governing abortion which a hurried reunification failed to resolve

towards unification last year, a separate abortion regime was allowed in the treaties because this life-and-death question was considered too difficult to answer in the time available. For a transitional period the east is allowed to retain the system of free abortion on demand available during the first 12 weeks, which was set up by the communists in 1972. It proved the major method of birth control then, and for years an average of one pregnancy in three in the east was terminated in this way.

In the west, meanwhile, under

a law dating back to the days of Bismarck, all abortions remain illegal unless approved by a doctor on medical or social grounds. One law is supposed to be ready for the united country by the end of next year and Bundestag members will be given a free vote on the question.

However the pro- and anti-abortion lobbies are already digging entrenched positions and the argument could be the most serious threat of all to Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition. Given the divisive nature of the question, the government wants

to cut short the argument and resolve the matter sooner rather than later, with draft legislation ready by the autumn.

Kathrin was only caught because border police at Gronau in North Rhine-Westphalia, searching her car for drugs, became suspicious that she had visited a Dutch abortion clinic and made her undergo a medical examination. Her case has had the effect of shocking the government into understanding the need for action.

Angela Merkel, the women and youth minister, who is one of three former East Germans in the cabinet, believes that there must be "help rather than punishment" for women. "My goal is to reduce the number of abortions but we have seen that this is not achieved by threatening punishment. Society has an obligation

for women to say yes to children but ultimately the woman herself must decide whether she wants the child or not."

The Christian Social Union (CSU) sees this as an implicit threat to liberalise the law and this has hardened its determination to retain the system whereby a doctor must give written approval explaining in detail the reasons for every abortion. Theo Waigel, its leader, is pressing the chancellor hard to give a clear commitment to defend the unborn child.

Frau Ursula Männle, who chairs the CSU's abortion committee insists: "This is about killing human life and protection of life is prescribed by our constitution. The right to life is indivisible." Unless there is abortion on demand, however, there seems little doubt that tens of

thousands of pregnant German women will, like Kathrin, continue to go to countries like Britain or Holland or to clinics like the one in Hesse where there is a more relaxed attitude to the law. Around 200,000 women are believed to go abroad for abortions each year, compared with the 80,000 or so who are given legal permission for one in the west.

Herr Kohl, a staunch Catholic, has hinted that he believes the CSU is right. Frau Rita Süssmuth, the popular CDU Speaker of the Bundestag, has put forward what she calls a third way by which abortion is available during the first 12 weeks, but only after the mother has been obliged to undergo intensive expert counselling to ensure that she is certain that she does not want the child.

Hurd invokes spectre of 1960s strikes in EC clash

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE British government, still digesting the compromise formula on a single European currency, yesterday argued alone against a large increase in the European Community's powers to make social and employment law.

The conference of EC governments revising the Treaty of Rome, which established the community, is now split 11-1 on this issue. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, told his colleagues yesterday that current proposals threatened to take Britain back to the "morass" of 1960s industrial relations. He said that Britain opposed any extension of the community's authority into social welfare or industrial relations.

Mr Hurd said that the British economy had gained from having wage bargaining carried out plant by plant. The community wanted to go backwards. He added: "We have removed the cloud that hung over us. It was a bad system that was doing us a lot of harm. We don't lose days by strikes any more." He told the meeting that Britain was happy with the existing treaty's balance between national and community powers and saw no reason to alter it.

Angered by Britain's stance, Jacques Delors, the president

of the European Commission, drew a parallel with the economic arguments used to defend the practice of forcing children to work, diplomats said. "I feel like those who were being told at the turn of the century that ending child labour would bring about a general collapse of the economy," M Delors was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister, said that no country should be able to hold up the 11 others. It was an echo of the arguments which used to be hurled at Margaret Thatcher.

Mr Hurd replied that Signor De Michelis should read the Treaty of Rome, referring to the community's rule that changes of the kind now being considered must be made unanimously. John Major's government has gone to great lengths to avoid confrontations in Europe, but the row over social powers is now bound to divide the EC heads of government when they meet at the end of June.

M Delors told the ministers that the community's relationship with workers was at "breaking point" because of governments' failures to implement the principles of the social charter. The draft treaty, at the moment on the table, takes its cue from the charter and would greatly increase the community's powers to set minimum requirements for laws by overriding national governments. The new powers would mostly be exercised by majority vote.

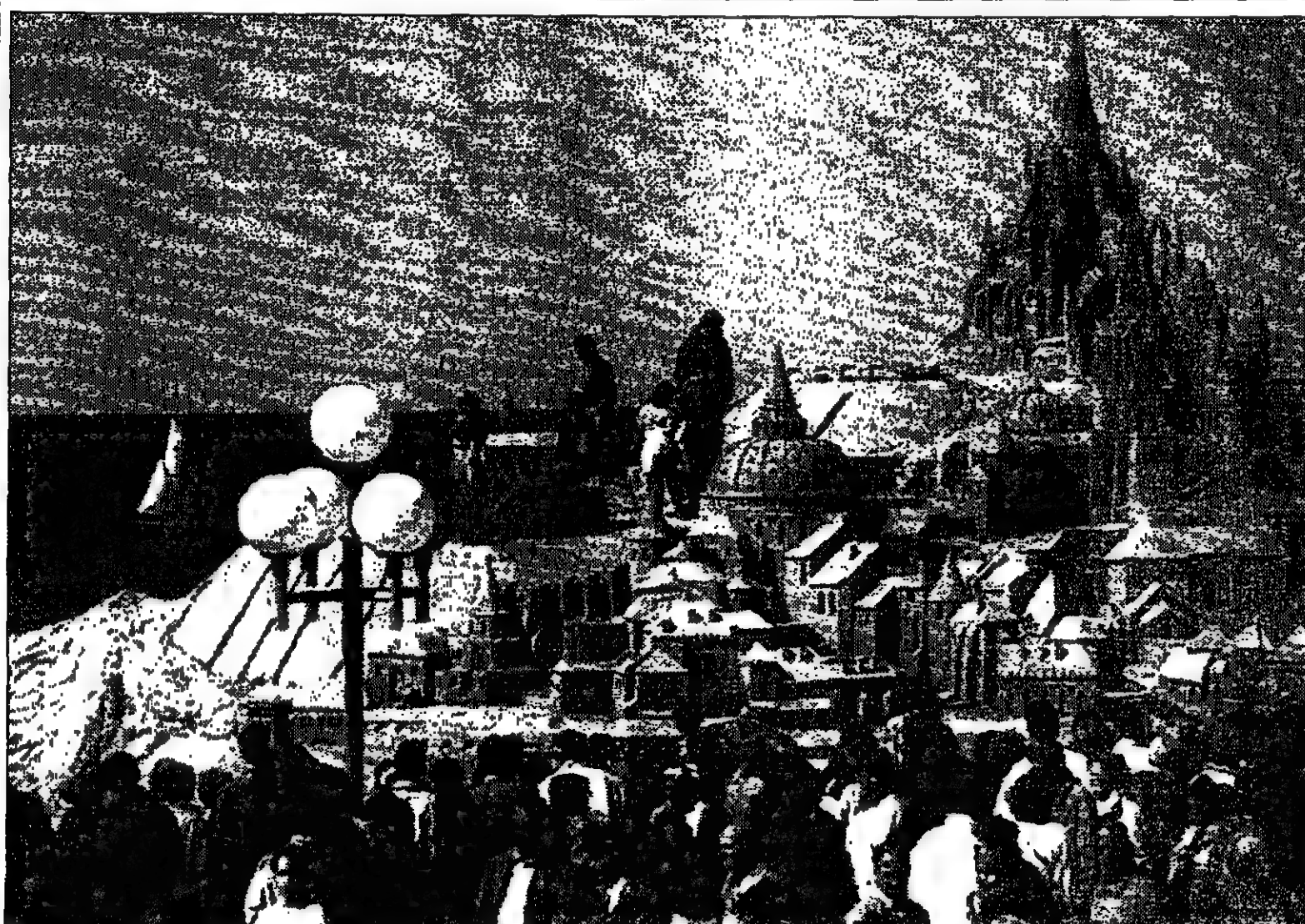
The present draft, changed since the Luxembourg presidency presented a text a month ago, splits social and labour affairs into three categories. The community would have no competence in laws on strikes, pay or trade union membership. Community governments would have to make decisions on social security and immigrant workers unanimously. The community could work on everything else covered by the social charter agenda. This would include consultation with workforces, contractual arrangements, and union-employer relations.

Britain also strongly objects to a proposal in which unions and employers, acting with the community, could bypass national governments. The suggestion is that a proposed community-wide law, agreed by EC union and employer organisations, would be automatically turned into law by the European Commission and made obligatory by majority vote.

According to British sources yesterday, the German proposal had not received any support, although discussions were continuing. "The Germans know this is not a runner," one British source said.

One issue of concern to the Germans is the separate proposal to have an out-of-area rapid-response force, under the aegis of the Western European Union (WEU), which could respond to threatened military conflicts in regions such as the Middle East.

Since it would be impossible to have two multinational rapid-response forces, one for Europe and one for outside Europe, the idea is that troops for the WEU out-of-area role would be drawn largely from the Nato rapid-response corps. Bonn has expressed concern that it would be playing host to a force which could suddenly be deployed outside Europe, leaving Germany uncovered.



King of castles: visitors walking around part of the 150ft square sandcastle built during the past week by the American satirist Gerry Kirk and a team of Dutch helpers at Scheveningen in The Netherlands. Special river sand was brought to the site by lorry for the construction

Split in Supreme Soviet holds up free travel bill

FROM ANN LIME IN MOSCOW

ONE house of the Soviet legislature, the Council of the Union, yesterday approved in principle a bill to allow free travel and emigration, but the measure was turned down in the second chamber, the Council of Nationalities, by a margin of 12 votes. The two houses of the Supreme Soviet have now referred the bill to a committee for resolution.

If made law, the bill would formalise many liberal reforms that have already been implemented by President Gorbachev. Beginning in July,

1992, it would allow travel abroad for virtually anyone who had permission from another country to enter. Among exceptions would be those with recent knowledge of state secrets and those facing criminal charges. There would, however, be an appeal procedure.

The government's refusal over the past decades to grant certain citizens exit visas has soured superpower relations and prompted the United States to withhold preferential trade treatment from the

Soviet Union. Even if both chambers eventually approve the bill in principle, the legislature must then adopt its every article and approve an enabling resolution before it can become law.

Fedor Burlatsky, the chief architect of the bill, on Sunday argued that approval would simply give the Soviet people the same rights enjoyed by citizens around the world.

Iren Andreyev, a legislator, said the right to travel was an important guarantee of justice and equality. "Now some people can travel, and some cannot," she said. "Decisions are taken behind closed doors."

Those who argued against immediate passage of the bill said they feared that millions of people would take advantage of the law to travel abroad and force the government to spend huge sums to exchange roubles into foreign currencies and expand transport, customs and visa processing to cope.

Last year 454,000 Soviet people emigrated and five million travelled abroad, Mr Burlatsky said. He estimated that, if the law were adopted, half a million people would emigrate annually and five to seven million would travel abroad.

(Associated Press)

UK discusses Albania links

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IN THE first direct high-level talks for more than 50 years, the Albanian prime minister and foreign minister yesterday met Douglas Hogg, the junior minister at the Foreign Office, to discuss a possible resumption of diplomatic relations after one of the longest breaks in post-war Europe.

Fatos Nano, elected prime minister after the ruling communists defeated the opposition in last month's general election, and Muhamet Kapllani, the foreign minister, arrived here for talks on joining the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Albania, the poorest country in Europe, is lobbying for massive Western investment, reversing a policy of autarky that marked 45 years of hardline Stalinism.

President Alija told the International Monetary Fund at the weekend that his country was facing economic disaster. At the Albanian request, Mr Kapllani called at the Foreign Office in an attempt to pave the way for an exchange of ambassadors.

Britain recognised the communist government of Enver Hoxha in 1945, but broke off relations in 1946 after two British destroyers hit mines off Corfu and sank with the loss of 45 men. Albania refused to pay the compensation

awarded to Britain by the International Court of Justice, and Britain refused to hand back a wartime fund of gold - now worth £10 million - which it recovered from Nazi Germany and held in trust.

The argument bedevilled all attempts to resume relations. Albania also harboured suspicions of Britain after the abortive attempt to engineer an anti-communist coup, sabotaged by a tip-off to the communists by Kim Philby, the Soviet spy. In 1982 Hoxha again accused Britain of attempting to land opposition forces in the country.

Talks about resuming relations began in Rome and Geneva last year.



Philby: sabotaged coup attempt against Hoxha

Cossiga rebukes leading Italian judge

IN A move unprecedented in postwar Italy, President Cossiga yesterday showed a lack of faith in Italy's ruling body of judges when he publicly rebuked its senior magistrate, who had in a television interview defended the role of magistrates fighting crime against the president's earlier criticism.

A statement from President Cossiga's office said he had revoked the power he had given Giovanni Galloni, vice-president of the Superior Magistrates' Council, to act as its deputy because he had "fallen short of the discretionary powers of such an appointment".

President Cossiga, who as head of state is also head of the magistrates' council, does not have the power to sack Signor Galloni. The body's judges elect their vice-president and presidential approval is usually a formality.

Political observers said the move was likely to cause turmoil among magistrates and judges fighting organised crime. The government and security forces are under again fire over the apparent impunity with which Mafia gangs are acting. About 18 people have been shot dead in southern Calabria alone in less than two weeks.

Jets shot down

Nairobi - Ethiopian rebels said in a broadcast monitored in Nairobi that their air defence unit had shot down two government MIG23 jets that bombed the port of Belet. The port was captured by the rebels of the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front during the past week.

Plea for China

Tokyo - Japan hopes that the United States will renew China's most favoured nation status and the government fears adverse consequences if it does not. Noburu Hata, a key figure in the Japanese government, said that the international trade and industry ministry's international trade policy bureau, said. (AFP)

Population leap

London - The world's population, now 5.4 billion, is likely to rise above 10 billion by the middle of the next century, much sooner than previously thought, a United Nations report said. Experts are revising their estimates upwards in spite of striking successes achieved by family planning programmes. (Reuters)

200 arrested

Brussels - Almost 200 North African immigrants were arrested in Brussels after two nights of the worst racial rioting seen in the Belgian capital. Gangs of youths smashed windows, threw petrol bombs and set cars on fire.

Tough approach

Seoul - President Roh Tae Woo, who sacked his interior minister after policemen beat to death a student demonstrator last month, has dismissed calls for his own resignation and ordered a tough line against protesters who inspired a wave of violence that has shaken South Korea. (Reuters)

Watergate tapes

Washington - Another 47½ hours of President Nixon's tape recordings relating to the Watergate investigation will be made public on June 4, the US National Archives announced. The tapes were used in the enquiry into the 1972 burglary at Democratic party headquarters that led to Mr Nixon's resignation. (Reuters)

Result of poll tightens Serb-Croat tensions

FROM DEBRA TREVEAN IN BELGRADE

THE referendum held in Croatia's Krajina region on Sunday, which was rejected by the Croatian government as illegal and hailed by the Serbs as a great victory, resulted in a landslide vote for union with Serbia. Published figures showed that 95 per cent of the population voted and more than 90 per cent cast their votes for union.

The referendum, which was no more than an act of defiance against the Croatian government, has strained rela-

tions between Serbs and Croats still further. Stipe Mesic, the Croat who under the annual rotation should become Yugoslavia's president tomorrow, said it was illegal and its decision not binding.

BRUSSELS: The European Community is to send a delegation to Yugoslavia to try to persuade the country's quarrelling republics that they stand a better chance of economic links with western Europe if they are not in a state of incipient civil war.

Ball game kicks off Queen's meet-the-people tour

Political grandees and celebrities will take a back seat as the people of Washington meet the Queen, Peter Stothard, US Editor, reports

AS THE Queen arrives today on her first state visit to Washington since 1976, the people of the city are putting more into their welcome than are the politicians and high-society hostesses.

In the Shakespeare theatre, Sabrina Le Beauf, star of the popular black TV comedy, *The Cosby Show*, is busy polishing up Cordelia's lines from Act IV, Scene VII, of *King Lear*. "How does my royal lord? How fares your majesty?" she will ask in front of Her Majesty on Thursday.

In the violent northeast of the city, Alice Frazier, aged 65, is enthusiastically preparing to show her visitor the first house she has ever owned. "I might not have a palace like her, but it's a palace to me," she told *The Washington Post* at the weekend.

At the nearby Memorial sta-

dium, multi-millionaire baseball stars and their fans express fascination that the Queen should be attending her first ball game tomorrow.

"You mean, she's never been to a ball game before?", asks a disbelieving Grant Dink.

The city's grandees are cooler. Gossip columnists have had to struggle to find the usual stories of great ladies scratching each other's eyes out to attend royal receptions. Charlotte Hays of the *Washington Times* blames the war, the recession and the desire to avoid the embarrassment of past battles to get close to the Prince and Princess of Wales.

"This time we're all just sitting back", she says.

On Capitol Hill, senior senators have been invited to what one described as "dozens of events, but none that I'll be going to". Until the weekend few outside the protocol office even knew that the visit was on - even though the Queen is to give her first address to a joint meeting of Congress on Thursday.

On Sunday, *The Washington Post* finally treated its readers to a royal history lesson with the theme that "The Queen's a frump. Chuck's a clump. Fergie's plump and her dad's a cad" - but they are all wonderful people compared to

the great monarchical monsters of the past. *The New York Times* counter was an elegant essay on the Windsors, a family which is "beginning to fray".

There is a sense of slight weariness. President Bush will be a gracious host. He can be no other. But the artificial stresses of royalty are not what his doctors would ideally prescribe for a patient whose heart is being monitored like a rogue nuclear reactor. Washington has a protocol chief, Joseph Reed, whose skills are legendary. But his main aim is that, from Concorde's arrival this morning at Andrews air force base, through every tree-planting, wreath-laying

and formal dinner, nothing should "go wrong". It is an exhausting schedule - 18 appearances in three days - even before she sets off on Friday for two cities in Florida and four in Texas. "We are pleased that it should be seen as a meet-the-people tour," a British embassy spokesman commented. "That is the aim."

Everything has been carefully planned, even down to the politically correct scene of reconciliation from *King Lear* - "one which we think the Queen will be familiar with", says theatre spokesman, Beth Hauptle.

She may indeed recall the lines of the walking monarch in the French camp: "Where have I been? Where am I? Fair daylight?" By the time the long trip is over, she may have cause to recall her predecessor's sentiments again.

CANNES BRIEFING

No hurry

THE Danish director Lars von Trier, whose film *Europa* is entered in competition, believes in planning ahead. His current project, a thriller called *Dimension*, will be filmed bit by bit in three-minute segments over the next 33 years. The premiere is planned for April 30, 2024. Should anyone meet with a misfortune before then, director and cast have already placed the names of their preferred replacements in sealed envelopes.

Vodka cocktail

NOT only president of the Association of Soviet Movie and Video Distributors but also an authentic Soviet millionaire, the exotic Ismail Tagi-Zade arrived in Cannes announcing plans to publicise his production of *Ivan the Terrible* by having 60 horses with "Cossack" riders trotting down the Croisette to the Palais des Festivals. That remarkable sight may not yet have materialised, but Tagi-Zade's other stunt—a party replete with 1,000 bottles of vodka—did go ahead on Sunday night. Unfortunately, it clashed with a reception for Madonna: most of the fashionable crowd felt the lure of the now-brunette star more compelling than that of a vodka-induced hangover.

Ship ahoy

AS THE anniversary of the 1492 voyage looms, the long-running battle between the rival factions producing Christopher Columbus films has reached a climax. Ilya and Alexander Salkind, whose production is to be directed by George Cosmatos (of *Rambo II* fame), have arranged for three replicas of Columbus's caravels to sail to Cannes. Their publicity campaign also includes hiring 25 planes for lunchtime flypasts. The Salkinds have Timothy Dalton signed to play Columbus; meanwhile the rival production, directed by Ridley Scott, will star Gérard Depardieu.



Sailing: Depardieu

Hours of fun

A PRIZE for the longest film in the festival can be awarded right now to the French director Jacques Rivette. His 1971 feature *Out 1* is being presented in its complete version, lasting over 12 hours. Rivette also has a new film in competition, *La belle noiseuse*, which lasts a mere four. His fellow countryman Maurice Pialat is next in line: *Van Gogh*, long in gestation and still being frantically edited in time for Sunday's screening, is due to last three hours and five minutes.

DORA BRYAN
IN
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FILM FESTIVAL: CANNES

Well-cut gems shine brightest

Geoff Brown finds occasional delights in the opening week of the world's biggest film festival

THE British may not have brought many films to Cannes, just two British features in the main body of the festival. But we did at least bring our own weather. Persistent rain and porridge-coloured skies greeted guests and luminaries struggling up the Palais red carpet, umbrellas alimbo, in order to see the opening film, David Mamet's *Homicide*. By Saturday, the sun had come out of hiding, but cinematically the festival still seemed under a cloud, bereft of films with that special fizz of excitement.

Homicide, one of five American films in competition, met with a typically mixed reaction. Mamet's third feature as writer-director takes him into police thriller terrain. In the opening scene, bullets fly as the police in an unnamed inner city try cornering an elusive drugs dealer. Mamet's dialogue maintains the rat-tat-tat tempo. Many words begin with "f" or carry racial slurs. Mamet's aim is to paint a portrait of a hard-pressed homicide detective, Bobby Gold (played by Mamet regular Joe Mantegna), riven asunder by conflicting claims of his job and his Jewish ancestry. Unwillingly yanked from the drugs case to attend to the murder of an old Jewish woman, Gold becomes more and more intrigued with the Jewish family's claims of an anti-Semitic conspiracy.

The audience, alas, never becomes intrigued to the same extent. As soon as the scene switches from police business to Gold's immersion into his Jewish heritage, the mood turns ponderous and the events far-fetched. "I'll be darned if I know why I wrote this," Mamet told one interviewer. Perhaps this is the problem: *Homicide* wrestles neatly enough with general issues of loyalty, but the plot merely toys with Jewish history and fears.

On Friday, Britain launched the Critics' Week with Isaac Julien's *Young Soul Rebels*, mounted by the British Film Institute with financial backing from France and Germany. The languorous sheen Julien brought to *Looking for Langston* is much in evidence: visually, this tale of youths at the time of the 1977 Silver Jubilee glows with colour.

But Julien never seems to have instilled into his young players the

feeling for realistic dialogue that his script demands. The plot is sparked off by the murder of a young black man in a north London park. His acquaintance Chris, co-runner of a pirate soul radio station, comes under police scrutiny just as he forms a new relationship with Tracy, a production assistant in commercial radio. Events climax in a "Stuff the Jubilee" concert in the park; but the awkward acting and poorly managed plot have almost killed one's interest long before.

On Saturday afternoon, the festival produced its first major delight, Agnès Varda's *Jacquot de Nantes* — a remarkable portrait of the childhood years of Varda's husband Jacques Demy, the director of such enchantments as *Lola* and *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, who succumbed to leukaemia last year. This could easily have been impossibly sentimental, but Varda, helped by some dazzling editing, steers a magical path through recreated scenes of Demy's childhood, interview material with Demy himself and tantalising clips from the director's oeuvre.

With great tenderness and understanding, Varda traces the origins and early impulses of Demy's imagination. The film's basic mode is black-and-white, but colour erupts whenever Jacquot's eyes light on something from the realm of fantasy — a poster for *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, or the arrival of an overdressed aunt from Rio. This is the perfect film for any festival: a work of tremendous skill and love, a hymn of praise to the wonders of cinema and all artistic creation.

Other films, as is their wont, took pains to stress the grotesqueness of human desires. The German director Werner Schroeter's entry, *Malina*, featured Isabelle Huppert as a lovelorn writer vomiting into her handbag, writhing on the floor and setting her apartment on fire. Lane Frosde, a first feature by a French actor, Patrick Bouchitey, drew on Charles Bukowski stories for an unedifying

spectacle of two layabouts who cap their boozy wanderings by making love to a "mermaid" — a drowned girl stolen from a morgue. Bouchitey's capering performance made this virtually unwatchable.

Kurosawa's new film, *Rhapsody in August*, proved another disappointment, though one could never accuse the 80-year-old master of cinematic hooliganism. Barring the occasional poetic flourish, the camerawork is plain; in most scenes the centre of gravity falls not on the images but the volume of talk. The talk, moreover, is heavily dis-

'I'll be darned if I know why I wrote this,' Mamet told an interviewer

plastic. A Japanese grandmother, urged to visit her long-lost, dying brother in Hawaii, is haunted by memories of the Nagasaki blast that killed her husband. The brother's American son (Richard Gere, no less) arrives to ease her misgivings about making the trip. Gere, smiling constantly, makes only a cameo appearance; much time is taken up

with the grandmother's grandchildren skipping around the house and coming to terms with the enormity of the atomic bomb. There is a degree of naive charm in all this, but *Rhapsody in August* remains a small, sad footnote to a glorious career.

New blood is on hand to keep cinema alive and kicking. Maroun Bagdadi's stock will surely rise after his powerful competition film, *Hors la vie*. The film plunges us into the hell of Beirut, where a freelance French photographer is taken hostage. Yet Bagdadi never falls into the trap of seeing events only through Western eyes. The captors and tormentors are no simple ogres: they have their quirky identities and are victims in their own way of the inescapable war. Hippolyte Girardot, best-known as the wayward charmer of *Un monde sans pitié*, shows some unexpected acting muscle as the journalist Roger Augue. Bagdadi, born in Lebanon, made *Hors la vie* after several years of television work; he drives the film forward with considerable polish.



Personal motive for investigating crime: detective Bobby Gold (Joe Mantegna) in David Mamet's police thriller, *Homicide*

RECORDS

Sacred sources amassed

Carver, Mass "Dum sacrum mysterium". Other works. Capella Nova. ASV GAU 124. Byrd: Marian masses William Byrd Choir. Hyperion CDA 86451

RENAISSANCE choral music, one of the great musical growth areas of the last two decades, continues to offer surprises, including here an extraordinary mass by Robert Carver, who seems (toothing much is known for sure) to have been associated with the Scottish Chapel Royal under James IV and James V. Like such English contemporaries as John Taverner, he was a master of highly ornate, pin-nacled polyphony, but he also had a quite particular taste for multiplying vocal lines to the point where individual threads dissolve and harmonic movement is stilled in a steady radiant blaze.

THE "Dum sacrum mysterium" mass, based on a St Michael plainsong, uses an appropriately fiery assembly of ten voices, with the whole concourse coming together for emphatic or culminating sections after others which have concentrated on smaller groupings. Finally, in the third Agnus Dei, the ten-part dazzlement, swaying like a bell with swings of harmony and repetitions of motifs, is sustained for an astonishing single span of timeless stasis that looks straight through Tallis's 40-part motet towards Arvo Pärt. Capella Nova, the outstanding Scottish professional choir, gives a majestic, bright-toned account of this work, coupled with the 19-part *O bone Jesu* and a Marian hymn less eccentrically scored for five voices.

The William Byrd Choir, sometimes replaced by a group of soloists, adopts a richly toned, roundly phrased manner, so that Byrd's music, often sung as that of a church in hiding, comes across sonorously and even triumphantly. Its selection here is of mass proper for the feast of the Virgin, and, as Philip Brent points out in his accompanying note, the CD medium allows one to piece together the music for any particular festival from Byrd's economical compendium.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

FESTIVAL: GLASGOW

In touch with the local tongues of yore

UNABLE to afford flashy foreign imports this year, MayFest (with its new director Robert Robson) has put together a theatre programme drawn from Britain's Celtic fringes which at least has the merits of coherence and integrity. The coherence stems partly from the fact that none of the plays uses England as a reference point, and partly from the companies' bold experiments with theatrical forms. And its integrity? That comes mostly from a vigorous use of local languages.

The honours in the first week were equally divided between Glasgow and Edinburgh, represented respectively by the Tron Theatre's

Alasdair Cameron celebrates the Scottish touch at this year's MayFest

blistering Scots version of Michel Tremblay's *Le Vrai Monde*? and Traverse Theatre's exquisite and elegiac premiere of Sue Glover's *Bondagers*. Both plays use a powerful but simplified Scots, to which audiences immediately responded.

Bondagers, now transferred to Edinburgh, is set in the Borders around 1860. It tells of a strange and short-lived custom whereby farmers would only employ a labourer who could also guarantee a woman to work with him. As the man's wife was usually raising children, he was forced to hire a bondager. This was resented by the wives, who (often correctly) imagined that bondagers were hired for their looks rather than their strength. *Bondagers* is as much a meditation on a now vanished rural life as a piece of narrative. But central to the play are the tragic fortunes of Tottie, a simple 13-year-old, and her mother Sara. An unexpectedly powerful political dimension shows the iniquities of an uncontrolled tenant-farmer system.

The danger with this type of play is of it looking like a piece of sentimental heritage drama. That is avoided here, thanks to a first-rate production team — in particular, designer Stewart Laing and director Ian Brown. Laing transformed the Tramway's vast spaces with an earth floor, walls covered half in red clay and half in rough whitewash, and authentic agricultural and domestic implements. Using this background Ian Brown and his choreographer, Sue MacLennan, have created what could be described as a minimalist Millais painting. The



Ann Louise Ross in *Bondagers*

production is ravishingly beautiful: stark and rhythmic, with some superb performances from Ann Louise Ross and Myra McPadyen.

Fine direction and acting also distinguish Michael Boyd's production of *The Real World* at the Tron. Tremblay writes in a rough French-Canadian dialect — closer to Scots than English according to the translators, Martin Bowman and Bill Findlay.

Set in 1965, *The Real World* is a Pirandello-like juggling of memory and desire about Claude, who escapes his middle-class Montreal background to write about his childhood. What gives the play its edge is the shadowy re-enactment of what Claude claims was an incestuous attack by his father on his sister, but which sister and father both deny. Performed in a claustrophobic stage within a stage, *The Real World* is a Freudian porridge of Oedipus and Electra complexes, family secrets betrayed and bitter jealousies.

The cast is superb, and the play's impact heightened because, although the drama is set in Quebec, the actors' dialects imply that it could be set in Scotland.

The home-grown offering which did not make the expected impact was Chris Hannan's *The Evil Deers*. Hannan's play shows the flipside of drunkenness, betrayal and loan sharkery lurking beneath the hype about the City of Culture. Although it won last year's "most promising playwright" award at the Rush Theatre, in Glasgow it gets its debut in the wrong theatre. The production is blandly designed, directed with a limp hand and acted intermittently well by a cast that all seemed to be in different plays.

REVIEWS, PAGE 18
Dance, Radio and Concerts

The grandest of passions. The greatest of sacrifices.



Diana Rigg and James Laurenson appear at the Almeida Theatre in John Dryden's *All for Love*, rediscovering the epic tragedy of Antony and Cleopatra.

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Nicholas Ridley

Competition is the key

Tories should resist the siren voices in Central Office calling for a monolithic German-style social market economy

The debate about the future of the health service must not become an auction, with the political parties bidding each other up to see who can spend most taxpayers' money on this and other public services.

Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, wants to make health care and education so good that no one will want to go private. He wants to make Britain more like Germany in this respect, and the Conservatives more like the Christian Democrats. German state provision of these services is so good, he believes, that it would remove one troublesome item from British politics. John Major has added the concept of the citizens' charter — with a sort of ombudsman to compensate the customer for poor service.

Bismarck first brought in compulsory state welfare, including health and education, in the 1880s, so Germany has a long tradition of monopoly state provision. In 1945, the papacy promoted the West German Christian Democratic party as a bastion against its main fear, that communism would overrun the country. Christian Democrats made provision of high quality state services a priority, in order to remove the grounds of communism's appeal. Germany's economic renaissance provided the means with which to pay for them.

In Britain, before the advent of the welfare state, health and educational services came in various forms. Much was provided by charitable bodies, including the churches. Many better-off families paid directly for their own health and schooling; there was a large and flourishing private sector in both. Public authorities, mostly local government, filled in the gaps and provided the essential safety net.

Despite the introduction of universal state education and the NHS, a flourishing private sector continued to offer choice at least for some. Besides having this tradition of diversity, we in Britain have not succeeded in generating enough wealth to pay for state services of German standards.

As our resources grow, as they surely will under continuing Conservative governments, we can use the extra wealth either to improve the state health and education services in an attempt to catch up with the Germans, or to diversify the sources of provision and so increase choice.

To follow the German model would be immensely expensive. Investing extra money in health and education seems not to increase standards commensurately, but rather to suck in more manpower and to lead to higher pay for employees. Under Mrs Thatcher, public spending on health increased by 37 per cent and on education by 16 per cent in

real terms, yet the quality hardly improved at all. One of the problems has been how to achieve good management of the resources put into education and health. Chris Patten rightly wants to see more contracting out and more private provision in the delivery of the services, which would certainly help. But all this is to be monolithic state provision.

Just how expensive this policy might be can be illustrated by imagining an analogy in housing. The equivalent of what Chris Patten proposes for health and education is that council housing should become so good that nobody would want to be an owner-occupier. Private companies would build, repair and manage the houses, but the state would own it to every citizen to provide a house so good that no one yearned for Eaton Square; surely an impossibly expensive task? Moreover, it implies a total absence of choice. There would be no market in housing, no trading up or down, and no right to buy or sell a house to suit one's needs, requirements or eccentricities.

We need to find ways to deliver health and education services giving maximum value for money. The best comes from diversity of provision. If providers have to compete for customers, there is choice for the customer and constant pressure for improvement. We have allowed schools to opt out, built city technology colleges, encouraged private schools to thrive, and helped poorer pupils to attend them. In time there will be diversified provision, including wider ownership of schools. Perhaps one day a voucher system will be introduced.

In the NHS, we have allowed hospitals to become self-governing trusts, and GPs to manage their own budgets. Again, the long-term aim is to diversify provision, giving more choice both to patients (choice of doctor) and to doctors (choice of hospital beds for their patients). Guy's, and other hospitals that have become trusts, are starting to sort out their overmanning and bureaucratic structures, and strings of better management can be seen. The same is true of schools that have opted out. School managers see opportunities for saving from their budgets and can spend more on improving standards.

Chris Patten has welcomed this new realism and now wants to ensure that any extra money spent on these new systems will result in higher standards. But the competition must be real. Ownership and control of schools and hospitals need to be diversified, so that competition and customer choice force managements to improve standards continually.

Competition is the difference between the command economy and the demand economy.

The author is Conservative MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury.



Ridley: diversity first

Sunday afternoon at Arundel: boats, blazers and beer tents. Sunshine illuminates the castle grounds and a scene so unchangingly, unmistakably English that the tourist board could package and sell it to affluent Americans. Almost 10,000 people peacefully picnic the day away to a rhythmic percussion of popping corks. Cricket is central to the scene but does not dominate it. As aesthetics demand, it is a game of white on green. Not, however, for much longer, if the marketing men now sinking their acquisitive teeth into this part of English heritage have their way.

Today at Lord's, the guardians of the English game are to vote on a break with tradition so radical that some will consider it heresy. If the recommendation of the Test and County Cricket Board's marketing committee is adopted, then as from next year, Sunday cricket will be played in full coloured clothing, just like soccer. There will be identifying numbers, or names, on the players' shirts, the balls will be white and

the nightwatches black. Those employed in selling the game see this as a natural development in creating a "product" attractive to young would-be spectators, to potential sponsors and, of course, to the great god television.

Those who oppose any such tampering with tradition fear it would be the thin end of the wedge. If these objections are made, they believe, then gaudy advertisements on shirts, scintillating cheerleader girls and musical jingles between overs will follow. In short, cricket will be Americanised, the charm of Arundel and similar venues will be sacrificed to the tune of the till.

Cricket has been on the move for some years now, though one could be forgiven for not noticing. Limited-overs cricket began the revolution in the early 1960s, and in 1969 John Player launched its backing of the 40-over county competition which is now firmly established — some would say obstructively rooted — as the Sunday League.

Playing on Sundays, previously a day on which cricketers played golf, drank a few pints and had a decent lunch, mobilised commercial forces in a new and exploitable market. It also introduced a new breed of spectator, one whose winters were not spent buried in

back numbers of *Wisden* and who wanted to see not the intrigue of an extended contest between a leg-spinner and a dead bat, but bowling being consistently clubbed out of the ground. The formula was a resounding success. Crowds flocked in, and although players became increasingly disdainful of this cheapened form of the game, they kept silent, for television interest was strong and the household bills were paid.

Sunday cricket's congregations were different in every way: less informed, certainly; more boisterous, usually; and containing women in ever increasing numbers, and also the very young.

Already, though, the Sunday League has become stale, as gimmicks invariably do. One answer is to spice up the product with fresh gimmicks; another is to admit that its day is done, and to refine and improve the cricket for its own sake with only a passing regard for chasing cash.

If marketing is the winner today, and indications are that the debate will be heated and the voting close, cricket will never again be quite what it was. It need not be a disaster, however. Sundays are big business in sport now, and even the most time-honoured of games must put the day to best use. If this means colours, names and numbers, even another attempt at floodlights, the game can withstand it and even flourish, once it is recognised that the Sunday match is a game apart.

But it would be shameful to discard games like the one at Arundel on Sunday. Let us hope that, like the rest of the nation's heritage, it is soon subject to a preservation order.

Tradition takes a knock as cash goes in to bat

Alan Lee umpires today's debate on brighter Sunday cricket

How Winnie failed Mandela

R.W. Johnson sees yesterday's kidnap verdict as a blow to her husband's stature and cause



Winnie Mandela under house arrest in the late 1970s. Soon she may be behind prison bars

The verdict against Mrs Winnie Mandela is a crushing one in personal terms: guilty of four charges each of kidnap and accessory to assault, including assault of a child who later died, the assault being so persistent, bloody and vicious as to constitute torture on any reasonable depiction. She had repeatedly lied under oath, not only committing perjury but concealing her evidence with others similarly committing perjury.

Mr Justice Stegmann, who enjoys a reputation for scrupulous fairness and has never, in his previous judgments, been accused of political bias, said he found Mrs Mandela "a calm, composed, unblushing and unprincipled liar".

There was a lot more in this vein. There will today be a sense of satisfaction no less deep for the fact that it will often, perhaps, be private, not only in South Africa's white suburbs but in Soweto and within the ANC's own ranks.

The ANC has suffered grave damage from the case. Perhaps the movement's greatest assets were its sense of moral legitimacy and the magic of the Mandela name. These assets have now been severely tarnished. But the damage was greatly compounded by the way — resisted by many within the ANC — that strenuous attempts were made to wheel the movement behind Mrs Mandela rather than treat the case as a personal one. Pressure went to the lengths of individuals being forced to attend the trial in Mrs Mandela's political support.

Everyone who went along with this sort of thing looks worse today, not just Mrs Mandela but the ANC chairman, Alfred Nzo, the leader of the ANC's military wing, Chris Hani, who has become Winnie's closest ally and consort, the communist leader Joe Slovo, and even George Bizos, Winnie's lawyer, a hero of decades of political defiance cases. And what of International Defence and Aid, which raised money for her defence?

The ANC now faces some tough decisions. Before the trial Mrs Mandela said that if her wife were found guilty, she would have to resign her position as the ANC's head of social affairs. This view, no doubt reflecting Mr Mandela's own legal background, assumed that a guilty verdict was both possible and, should it arrive, would have to be respected. But first there is the question of the appeal. Not to appeal would have looked bad, but now the agony will be protracted. Even during the trial support for Mrs Mandela fell away noticeably. She will now carry the image of a loser and worse; the appeal could become a lonely and miserable business.

Some elements within the ANC — the youthful "comrades" and

perhaps Chris Hani — may attempt to mobilise popular support against the verdict. But the ANC will have to decide whether it wishes to be associated with such a protest. The matter has been so unwisely handled that not to make a protest will be seen as timidity to accepting the justice of the verdict, while to mount a protest will only strengthen the impression that the ANC has been hijacked by a single, wilful and criminal woman.

Already this has led to deep disquiet and division within the movement. It was very striking that such leading figures as Mrs Albertina Sisulu and the Reverend Frank Chikane adamantly refused to attend the trial even though their evidence might materially

have helped Winnie. The difficulty of the situation is illustrated by the fact that Walter Sisulu is still by far the closest of all Mr Mandela's confidants, while his wife is so opposed to Winnie that she has not merely helped to ensure her defeat for head of the ANC women's league but was not even prepared to help save her from jail.

Already there has begun to be criticism of the "dynamic" quality of the ANC leadership. No one doubts that Winnie owes her current position entirely to her husband — while he was in jail she was all but read out of the movement by indignant activists. Moreover, Winnie has shown a voracious political appetite and attempted to position herself in

almost regal style, not just as "the mother of the nation" but almost its queen. This style does not sit easily with the egalitarian spirit of ANC activists.

A few weeks ago a leading activist, Barbara Hogan, got involved in a dispute with Winnie for allegedly doing her social affairs work improperly. Mr Mandela summoned Ms Hogan to the Mandela home — a meeting Ms Hogan refused to attend on the grounds that it was impermissible for Mr Mandela to involve himself in such a dispute simply because he was married to one of the participants. (Feminism is one of those movements that rather passed Mr Mandela by while he was detained on Robben Island.)

These issues are unlikely to be raised publicly at the ANC's national conference in July, but they are festering unsightly within the movement all the same.

Finally there is the question of Winnie's future role in the ANC. The imminence of the conference means this cannot be fudged for long. To give up her social affairs portfolio or her powerful base as head of the Johannesburg-Pretoria branch of the women's league would mean accepting a degree of public disgrace and guilt which would be intolerable to her. But the damage to the movement's credibility will only be greater if she continues. Indeed, it would be embarrassing now merely for her to continue as Mrs Mandela's high-profile consort on foreign visits — even to a pop concert at Wembley.

Last year in Durban she lost her temper at an ANC women's meeting when the question of children's rights was raised, interpreting the question as a veiled reference to Stompie Moeketsi, victim of the kidnapping and murder. How can one have a social affairs spokesperson for whom children's rights is a no-go area? Immediately the ANC may be left off the hook, so to speak, if Mrs Mandela is sent to jail, an irony that will escape no one.

Nobody will face greater agonies over these choices than Mr Mandela. He has done nothing to deserve the pain and humiliation the affair has brought upon him. He is merely a good man who loves his wife, deeply and blindly. He struggled hard, even from jail, to control her in her wilder ways. It is, alas, now only too clear just how thoroughly he failed.

The author is a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Having a newish baby, I find myself watching TV-am very early each morning. About a week ago I was watching their horrific pictures of the floods in Bangladesh. The newscaster announced that an estimated 200,000 people had already died. The weather girl then came on. "And I'm afraid," she said, "the weather here isn't too good either."

I felt a similar sense of disproportion last weekend when the subject around the table turned to the iniquity of barn conversions. Now, few of us have worries that are quite as grand and universal as we would wish, but to devote one's worrying hours to barn conversions is, I would have thought, a bit like sitting in the mug bar of the Titanic and moaning that there isn't quite enough celery salt in your Bloody Mary.

With the onset of Greenery, it has become hard to keep up with all the worries on offer. Fur, bottles, butter, sun, fertilisers, milk, plastic bags, nappies, meat, cars, paper... all those items that used to provide a refuge from worries are now fully-fledged worries in their own right. Meanwhile, all the good old-fashioned worries, such as being eaten by a shark, getting lost in a forest or having a bat caught in your hair, are now, in the light of declining sharks, forest and bats, to be considered enviable luxuries. "Daddy," my daughter will be demanding when she is 15, "Why can't I have a bat in my hair like girls always used to?"

To be honest, I have arrived

late on the scene of the great barn conversion worry. Indeed, it was not until Prince Charles mentioned such conversions in a speech a month ago that I realised anyone was against them. I have never knowingly been inside a converted barn, but I have seen them, every now and then, from the side of the road, with their funny little diamond-shaped upper windows, and I must admit they have never caused me a moment's anxiety.

That was until last weekend, when I found myself pitched headlong into a household of people all wearing long, distressed faces and mourning the passing of the unconverted barn. Whether it is a green issue I cannot fathom, but it shares with Greenery an undercurrent of misanthropy. In my experience, greens tend to be drawn not from those who previously expressed concern for the downtrodden, but from naturally bossy, puritanical people who like allotting blame. They found their wings clipped by the easy-come, easy-go attitudes of the late 1960s, but have now managed to wheedle their way back to a position of dominance. Allied to charity, their bossiness ("Don't do that, do this! What on earth are you eating? That shouldn't be allowed!") has been permitted to extend its boundaries for miles and miles while the rest of us hang our heads in shame.

The Anti-Barn-Conversion movement has already, within a matter of weeks, produced fanatics. I told my host of a beautiful old barn at the end of our lane that collapsed during the last

storm, leaving not a splinter standing. I argued that if it had been converted into a house, it would still be there, a little altered, but as proud as can be. He did not agree. "Better that it disappears back into the ground than that its original purpose should be usurped to make way for a bijou home," he grumbled.

At the heart of the ABC movement lies a desire to prohibit other people. Apart from a few funny little diamond-shaped windows, converted barns look no different on the outside. But on the inside, instead of rusted shells of corn, lumps of fly-ridden manure and mouldy spiky from contraptions embedded in the soil, there are now beds and sofas and baths and cushions. And instead of rats and mice and flies and bats there are — oh no! — human beings!

"But what will happen to the barn owls?" my host worried. For a second, I thought he had a point. They are mysterious, lovable creatures, and I wouldn't like them to disappear. But then I remembered that barn owls were around for many millions of years before the first barn was erected, and no doubt, they will be around for many millions of years after the last barn is converted. After all, it is not as if they know that they are called barn owls. Who can say? — they may have spent the last two thousand years stuck in mouldy old barns just longing for the installation of shower units, three-piece suites, full kitchens and a nice bit of central heating; and now they need worry no more.

Cutting words in Whitehall

Why did Sir Bernard Ingham so readily allow the Cabinet Office to cut the juiciest morsels in his book? After all, the Radcliffe guidelines on what civil servants and ministers should not divulge (available from any branch of HMSO) are purely voluntary. Many others have chosen to ignore them, with impunity. The guidelines were introduced in 1976 in the wake of the rumour about Richard Crossman's cabinet diaries, but the two most famous subsequent diarists, Tony Benn and Barbara Castle, disregarded them almost totally.

"I sent them passages about security matters, but the rest was none of their business. They had to wait for publication like everyone else," says Castle. "I am surprised how weak Ingham has been."

Benn, whose published diaries cover 11 years of government between 1964 and 1979 and run to thousands of pages, never submitted a word to Whitehall. "The Radcliffe guidelines are nothing to do with the security of the state," he says. "They are there purely for the convenience of ministers. The only secret about government is that there are no secrets."

Harold Wilson is one Labour politician who did abide by the guidelines, and at least one passage in his book, dealing with relations between Russia and China, was deleted. "If you give them the book, the temptation is for them to cut," says Wilson's press secretary, Joe Haines, who never even told the Cabinet Office he was writing a book. "Civil servants are protecting their own machinery. It is not just the cabinet secretary who reads the drafts. They go to every ministry with which the author had dealings."

Sir Norman Fowler, whose political memoirs are published



this week without attracting controversy, submitted a draft to the Cabinet Office censors, but says he put up a stern fight. "They put a number of suggestions to me which I treated on merit. Some I accepted, some I did not. As a former journalist I am not keen on the process."

Mrs Thatcher too should soon receive a copy of the guidelines, which the Cabinet Office sends to every politician and official who it believes is about to put pen to paper. She is expected to abide by the conventions, but it would take a brave soul in the Cabinet Office to tell her what she cannot say about the government she ran for more than 11 years.

The end of the line is in sight for one of British Rail's most venerable traditions. The new New-entrant trains, the first of which came into service today on the Thames and Chiltern line, are equipped with "environmentally friendly retention tanks". As a result, the Victorian instruction to passengers not to use the lavatory while the train is standing in the station will be seen no more.

Government cogs

Christopher Chope, the transport minister, who was yesterday launching a new government initiative on car seatbelts, does not enjoy travelling on four wheels at all. Instead,

he has taken a leaf out of the Norman Tebbit book of thrifty travel and got on his bike — or rather a his-and-hers tandem.

Chope and his wife Christo took their first tandem ride around the streets of his Southampton constituency last week. The machine was on loan, but they so enjoyed the experience that they are now planning to buy one. The energy-saving would be considerable, for the couple could also cycle from their London home to Westminster, where Christo is Chope's parliamentary secretary. Which of them is the back seat driver has yet to be ascertained.

Working in a ndem



All cisterns must go

An unusual transatlantic challenge has led to a display at Garrards tonight of the largest piece of silver ever commissioned. Last year a wealthy American customer told Richard Jarvis, the royal jeweller's managing director, that the ancient art of silversmithing was virtually dead and that no contem-

porary silversmith could compare to those working for the Russian Tsars in the 18th century.

The challenge was taken up, and a perfect copy of a famous and highly intricate wine cistern given to Peter the Great in 1723 and now in the Hermitage in Leningrad will be unveiled today. Just to prove the point, the copy, weighing a staggering 4,000 ounces, is even larger than the original, and according to William Comyns, Garrards' silversmith, is the largest piece of silver ever crafted. So large is the cistern that it is said to hold 60 bottles of champagne "comfortably" — which should go some way to slaking celebratory thirsts at the unveiling ceremony.

The anonymous American collector who issued the challenge is flying over for the occasion. "I just had to prove him wrong. He will be stunned when he sees it," says Jarvis. So stunned, they hope, that he will immediately take out his chequebook and hand over the asking price of £350,000.

Nancy Reagan is about to suffer an indignity even worse than being savaged by Kitty Kelley. The manager of a bookstore in Illinois is to install the life-size cardboard cut-out supplied by Kelley's publishers as a scarecrow to keep birds away from his vegetables.

Mosque conversion

The Gulf war has claimed yet another casualty: a £4 million mosque in Edinburgh. The building, acclaimed as a "jewel of Islamic architecture" when first designed, was supposed to be clad entirely in marble, at a cost of £1.5 million. But the Saudi Arabian government, which is funding the project, now has other demands on its resources. As a result, the marble will be replaced by the cheaper and more traditional Scottish style of pebbledash.



MARINES IN THE CROSSFIRE

The shots fired at British marines in northern Iraq have shattered any illusions that safe havens for the Kurds could be carved out of Iraq without opposition. President Saddam Hussein has denounced every move by Britain and the Western allies to repatriate the Kurds from the squalid mountain camps into which he drove them.

Until now Baghdad has done no more than rant impotently over the infringement of its sovereignty, while quietly pulling back its troops, agents and armed police from the no-go zone as the allies move in. Confrontation was avoided only by the skill of General John Shalikashvili, the American commander. But sooner or later an incident was bound to unleash the anger and humiliation felt by both Kurds and Iraqis, and allied troops would be caught in the crossfire.

Britain, the instigator of the safe haven policy, knew from the start that it entailed just this risk. The same risk lay beneath Washington's coolness to the proposal. The United Nations, ever hostage to its stultifying regime of caution and consensus, is still quibbling about the legality of Operation Gallant Provider. But unless the allies had acted with dispatch, thousands more Kurds would now be dead. John Major's impatience with the United Nations was amply justified.

Saving lives is a UN responsibility. Self-serving arguments by some members, fearful of the precedent of UN intervention, must not be used by the secretariat as an excuse to drag its feet. The Kurds cannot be left on the mountains of Turkey and Iran. However much money is raised by pop concerts and private charity, no such sum is enough to feed two million refugees. Their towns and homes remain standing, though empty and looted.

The Kurds themselves are now beginning to realise that in the balance of misery, risking a return to Zakho or Dahuk may be better than perishing of disease and starva-

tion in temporary encampments in a foreign land. The task now is to persuade them to go home. Without a climate of confidence, that is impossible. The Kurds must be sure that they will not be punished for trying to throw off the tyranny imposed by Saddam. They must be given guarantees that autonomy and human rights are not empty blandishments. But their leaders have to negotiate with Saddam. He is weaker than he has ever been, desperate to hold his shattered country together and release the economy from the vice of sanctions. He is ready to compromise. The allies and the Kurds are right to distrust him. But they must recognise reality, even if it means a loathsome public embrace.

The allies cannot remain as permanent guardians of Kurdish safety. Nor can the United Nations. The world has seen what happens when peacekeeping forces are deployed "temporarily". They stay for years, as in Cyprus, a useful source of income for the locals and an excuse for warring parties to avoid the compromises of direct negotiation. But at this stage in Iraq, the UN has barely arrived. Two representatives yesterday travelled in a convoy to Dahuk, where they will open a UN office.

This symbolic presence will not be enough, however, to persuade residents to return while the Iraqis and the allied forces warily circle each other. Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, a realist who is taking his role of UN humanitarian co-ordinator with an admirable lack of cant, saw for himself that more is needed. He is ready to support the replacement of allied forces with an international police force.

Such a force urgently demands an end to the legalistic wrangling in New York. Until the UN accepts its responsibilities the Kurds will stay in their camps. And until then the allied soldiers have little choice but to be exposed every day to the snipers and the vengeance of the warring factions, guarding an empty haven.

BAN DANGEROUS DOGS

Last year's fiasco over dog registration now seems likely to be followed by another, over the banning of dangerous breeds such as pit bull terriers and Rottweilers. Incidents are regularly reported of the misbehaviour of these lethally aggressive animals. On Sunday a toddler was mauled by her grandparents' pit bull terrier in Bolton. Some days before, a Lincoln man was set upon in the street by two such terriers and narrowly escaped with his life. Such incidents or worse will be repeated endlessly until the government acts. Every single case will be because of the government's delay.

These beasts are still freely available for sale to anybody without restriction, yet they are far more dangerous than firearms and explosives that are subject to stringent control. The government should bring them under the Dangerous Animals Act of 1976, or legislate to ban them as pets while limiting less dangerous but still aggressive breeds to licensed enclosures.

Ministers have found themselves in a muddle as a result of resisting, for no plausible reason, the demand for a national register of dogs and their owners. At the end of last year they had to whip in both their own backbenchers and the House of Lords to get their way. The government came back with a limp "consultative document", proposing various half-measures to tighten control of dangerous dogs, as an alternative to registration.

Registration is no solution to the growing threat from dangerous breeds. The number of Rottweilers in Britain is estimated to have grown in ten years from a handful to nearly 200,000. The government's opponents made the mistake last year of linking registration to the control of dangerous dogs. The link should be broken. This is not a matter of animal welfare but of human safety.

WHEN SILENCE IS GOLDEN

Neil Kinnock's office feels aggrieved at the publicity given to his friendship with a Cypriot businessman active in his constituency and now being investigated by the police. He has reason to complain at the way the story was handled in some quarters. He has less reason to complain at the story continuing to run elsewhere. Like the Cabinet Office in the affair of the Ingham memoirs, it was his response to the story that fuelled the flames.

The iron rule is that those who do not want publicity should avoid the press. There is no room for ifs or buts, bland explanations or "no comments". The rule states: do not talk to the press; do not issue statements; do not go to the press complaints commission; do not even sue, unless you are rich, thick-skinned and do not mind yet more publicity. Buckingham Palace has long adhered to this rule. While it does not stamp out inaccuracy and rumour, it at least prevents one paper's story running on in others. For without follow-up, any tale, true or false, soon loses momentum. No paper or broadcaster likes picking up another's scoop except to take it further.

The Kinnock story first ran in one newspaper and would have died the death had not Mr Kinnock's office decided to put out a long response to various detailed questions, rather than say that the businessman's affairs were nothing to do with him. Newspapers walk a fine line when dealing with the semi-private affairs of public figures. *The Times* would not have mentioned the Kinnock story had it not been for his lengthy response. The details of the case were thus put in the public domain, confirmed by its principal subject and likely to become a matter of wide discussion. Not

to have mentioned the story at all would have denied readers news that was widely disseminated and, as important, had moved on since its first disclosure.

In a similar case last month, a newspaper interested itself in a tenant living in Norman Lamont's private house. This ridiculous story would have vanished in a day, and would not have been mentioned in this newspaper, had Mr Lamont not put out a long statement through his solicitor. As is the nature of a solicitor's statement, by raising more questions than it answered it immediately put the story in the public realm. Soon most of Fleet Street was having innocent fun at the Chancellor's expense.

A wiser course was adopted by a peer whose private life was recently exposed in a tabloid newspaper and who refused to say anything. Other newspapers ignored what was a strictly private matter and, with no rebuttal or comment from the victim, the story soon ran out of oxygen. Only *The Spectator* and *The Independent* mentioned the unfortunate man, using the old Fleet Street trick for printing salacious material by "deploring" the initial exposure.

Not responding to embarrassing or inaccurate coverage is difficult, especially for those already in the public eye. They cannot hope for their affairs, public or private, to remain inviolate from Britain's competitive media. But they can starve a story of sustenance. The best way to stop bad news is to ignore it. The advice is hard to take for those used to news, to surrounding themselves with press officers, publicists and solicitors, all clamouring to "help" in a crisis. But believe a newspaper when it says that if you want to prevent a story running, do not talk to the press.

Time to concede over Gibraltar?

From Sir Anthony Kershaw
Sir, During his recent visit to this country the Spanish Prime Minister suggested that Spain and Britain should end their rift over Gibraltar (report, May 8). One gathers that in reply HMCG called attention to the recital (preamble) of the 1969 Gibraltar Constitution Order that "HMCG will never enter into arrangements whereby the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their freely and democratically expressed wishes".

Perhaps lawyers could debate whether a joint sovereignty would be a breach of that undertaking. However that may be, I suggest that the words are no longer appropriate to the interests of any of the three parties involved, and should be scrapped.

In former years the nature and quality of Spanish governments were such that handing over Gibraltar to any of them would have been immoral. Secondly, the area of Spain near Gibraltar was bitterly poor, so that the junction of Gibraltar with it would have dragged Gibraltar into poverty. Today Spain is democratic, prosperous and a Nato and EC ally.

From Britain's point of view, Gibraltar was valuable, even in World War II, as a naval and military base. Today Gibraltar has no military value to Britain.

One can understand Spain's sense of frustration. How would we feel if the Spanish Armada had landed on Portland Bill and kept it ever since?

The wishes of the Gibraltarians are not the same as their interests. A closer economic cooperation with Spain would now be an advantage to them not a loss. The Constitution of Spain is flexible enough to accommodate widely different associations. No one now doubts Spain's devotion to democracy and freedom.

An example already exists in Andorra, a condominium between France and Spain, which has long existed and which worked harmoniously even during wars, revolutions and bad governments, and which still works to the contentment and satisfaction of its inhabitants.

Gibraltar has nothing to lose, Spain, Britain and Europe have much to gain by a change. Twenty thousand Gibraltarians ought not to have a veto on British policy. I hope that HMCG will stop sitting on its hands, and will agree to modify the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713.

I beg to remain, Sir, your obedient servant
ANTHONY KERSHAW
(Chairman, Commons select committee on foreign affairs, 1979-87),
West Barn, Didmarion,
Barnstaple, Avon.
May 10.

Small claims change

From Mr Graham H. Bridgman
Sir, Mr B. V. Rowe (May 7) points out the inequities of the county court arbitration limit in relation to personal injury claims but states that it may be appropriate to debt cases.

The moves to exclude lawyers from, for example, private consumer disputes by penalising a represented client in relation to costs rebound on company creditors who have no realistic choice but to be so represented.

The rules as they stand mean that a recalcitrant debtor who files a spurious defence to proceedings may not only delay those proceedings for a considerable time, but may also finish by paying less after a judgment has been awarded against him than if he had simply failed to respond to the proceedings in the first place (since costs are awarded where judgment is entered in default of response but not, generally, where it is entered after an arbitration hearing).

The net result of this is that a business which has to sue a customer and obtains judgment after an arbitration hearing has to pay for the privilege. These costs (or the costs of writing off a debt because the creditor forms the view that it is simply not worth pursuing) must be passed on to customers who pay their accounts on time, and the cost of credit rises as a result.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM H. BRIDGMAN,
Kidd Rapinot (solicitors),
172 Friar Street,
Reading, Berkshire.

Agriculture reform

From Professor G. H. Peters
Sir, On May 3 you published three letters which all stressed the importance of grasping the nettle of agricultural policy reform as a means of reopening negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). By implication all suggested that reduction in agricultural protectionism would restore the fortunes of world agriculture.

Agricultural protectionism in Europe (Nordic countries as well as the Community) Japan and the USA was rife in the 1970s, yet did not prevent major growth in agricultural trade. In the 1980s there was increased interference with trading patterns as the Community and the USA subsidised agricultural exports - reducing "world prices" in the process - and as Community self-sufficiency grew. New Zealand and the other main agricultural exporters (the New Zealand High Commissioner's letter) have justifiable cause for complaint.

However, another potent factor at

Fundraising, politics and 'aid fatigue'

From Mr Harvey R. Cole
Sir, During the Gulf war, Britain made strong demands on countries who did not send forces to the area for financial assistance. Large contributions came from Japan and Germany and other European nations. While there may have been some doubts over what could be regarded as a mercenary approach to carrying out international obligations, the requests were understandable.

Now, however, it appears that the sums to be received may well outweigh the full actual costs incurred. This is the more likely if account is taken of the extent to which ammunition expended and equipment lost is not to be replaced in any event. It would be quite unacceptable for this windfall to be used simply to bolster the government's own budgetary accounts and reserves of foreign exchange.

The onset of "aid fatigue", in the face of the many huge disasters that have recently struck both refugees from Iraq and people in other parts of Asia and Africa, makes it essential that Britain does not pocket its Gulf war profit.

The government should publish the full figures, showing the actual cost of the war that will appear in the national accounts and the extent to which this is offset, or more, by foreign contributions. Any balance - after allowing for our own "fair" contribution to the United Nations action - should be made available for immediate assistance to afflicted countries.

Yours etc,
HARVEY R. COLE,
9 Chiffon Road,
Winchester, Hampshire.
May 13.

Charity in London

From the Chairman of the City Parochial Foundation and others
Sir, As you reported (May 9) the London Boroughs Grants Committee has finally agreed upon a budget for funding voluntary organisations, which still has to be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the boroughs. Whilst this is good news, we should not underestimate the difficulties that have already been caused for a significant number of voluntary organisations.

The City Parochial Foundation, with a grant income of just over £5 million, is a grant-making trust required to use its money to benefit the poor of Greater London. During this crisis voluntary bodies in need have been approaching the foundation seeking emergency financial help.

The trustees have taken the view that it is not an appropriate use of charitable funds to meet such

requests, even if there was sufficient money available. Many grant-making trusts do have funds to help with the development of voluntary bodies in London but cannot use such funds sensibly or responsibly to aid the development of organisations whose very future has been in doubt because of the failure of the London Boroughs Grants Committee to agree a budget.

The critical question that remains is what measures can now be taken to ensure that this problem does not occur in future years. Services which are helping some of the most needy communities in London should never again be subjected to such unnecessary strain.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN SMALLWOOD, Chairman,
MARY MARRE (Vice-Chairman),
TIMOTHY COOK (Clerk),
City Parochial Foundation,
6 Middle Street, EC1.
May 10.

farming practices and incomes. Some traditional kinds of farming, e.g., with production, would be impossible with a high-water regime.

The Country Landowners Association, of which I am a member, is against compulsory wholesale flooding, but would rather see a voluntary scheme in those areas where the birds are known to breed.

The ESA scheme has worked well in maintaining an attractive visual environment, for which the Somerset Levels and moors are renowned. Conservation and economic return must go hand in hand if we are to have a healthy and sustainable rural economy.

Yours faithfully,
T. R. N. WOLFORD,
Upton Bridge Farm, Long Sutton,
Langport, Somerset.
May 7.

Wetland water levels

From Mr T. R. N. Wolford
Sir, I wish to take issue with some points in Michael Hornsby's article, "Wildlife lobby wades into battle for West Country wetland" (May 6), about the Somerset Levels and moors.

It has not been proved that reduced water levels are solely responsible for the fall in numbers of breeding birds. It is widely recognised that animal and bird predation has a part to play.

It is the Internal Drainage Boards, not the farmers themselves, which control the pumping of water from the Levels.

Farmers in the "environmentally sensitive area" (ESA), of which I am one, are being asked to accept high water levels from November to the end of June. This would have a dramatic and serious effect on

men in society enjoy maximum economic, political and cultural equality. To support the balkanisation of Ethiopia - a country that has a proud history of over 3,000 years of independence and national unity - on account of parochial secessionist claims, instead of helping the country to develop a sound socio-economic basis for building a multi-cultural society, is tantamount to openly advancing the old colonialist mentality of "divide and rule".

The Ethiopian people believe that only under a truly democratic system could all the various elements in society enjoy maximum economic, political and cultural equality.

Yours faithfully,
TEFERRA HAILE-SELASSIE,
17 Princes Gate, SW7.

Ethiopia's future

From the Ambassador of Ethiopia
Sir, The letter from Mr David L. Astor and others (May 9) is neither correct in its historical analysis nor does it offer a fresh and fair solution to the Ethiopian people.

In the present government the various ethnic and linguistic groups are fairly represented. In Ethiopia no one is excluded from holding a public office on account of his ethnic origin or religious beliefs.

The Ethiopian people believe that only under a truly democratic system could all the various ele-

ments in society enjoy maximum economic, political and cultural equality. To support the balkanisation of Ethiopia - a country that has a proud history of over 3,000 years of independence and national unity - on account of parochial secessionist claims, instead of helping the country to develop a sound socio-economic basis for building a multi-cultural society, is tantamount to openly advancing the old colonialist mentality of "divide and rule".

The Ethiopian people believe that only under a truly democratic system could all the various elements in society enjoy maximum economic, political and cultural equality.

Yours faithfully,
TEFERRA HAILE-SELASSIE,
17 Princes Gate, SW7.

sequence and not the initiating cause of the world depression.

Sir Simon Gourlay suggests it is ironic that common agricultural policy (CAP) expenditure has soared without apparent benefit to farmers. There is no mystery in this. Sustaining high CAP prices has become more expensive as the "world price" of so many commodities has fallen, it has been too costly fully to maintain internal prices and some of the burden has been reflected at the farm gate.

That apart, however, the CAP has been operated to pursue the aim of "price stabilisation". Though we may not applaud the consequences, the true irony is that a former NFU president does not appear to recognise the fact that the CAP is a shield without which the farming situation would become horrendous.

Yours faithfully,
G. H. PETERS,
University of Oxford,
International Development Centre,
Queen Elizabeth House,
21 St Giles, Oxford.
May 7.

Regiment system under scrutiny

From Major General J. M. Strawson
Sir, The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) advertises its forthcoming off-the-record meeting on June 19 as: "The regimental system: can we afford it? The question should, of course, be: can we afford not to have it? But whatever the question, the answer is: we must keep it."

Only those with personal experience of the regimental system can fully understand its priceless value. It is the best way of raising, grouping, training and leading men in action yet devised by any army. To talk of the British Army without it is like talking of a Royal Navy without ships, a Royal Air Force without aeroplanes. The British Army is not just based on the regimental system. It is the regimental system. It is what has been aptly called a loose federation of regiments.

In describing the Army of Sir John Moore and Wellington, Arthur Bryant put his finger on the system's strength. Every regiment, he explained, had its peculiar history and character, handed down from veteran to recruit. "Such regimental legends", he wrote, "became on the battlefield a spur to emulous courage and endurance."

Nothing has changed since then, except for some regimental names and numbers. Yet no doubt there are those who during the Ministry of Defence's "Options for Change" exercise will seek to do away with what is the envy of other armies. Those who say it is too costly forget that what is of real value and quality tends to cost more than what is not.

We must hope therefore that the Army Board will send one of its members to the RUSI meeting next month to declare unequivocally and on the record that the regimental system is here to stay. There may have to be more amalgamations and disbandments, but the system itself must continue.

Yours,
JOHN STRAWSON,
The Old Rectory, Boyton,
Warminster, Wiltshire.
May 11.

Voting reform

From Mr Jacques A. Arnold, MP for Gravesend (Conservative)
Sir, We have a system of representative democracy, where members of Parliament are solely responsible for the smallest area possible - the constituency. They are elected on the basis of the greatest amount of positive support in the constituency and are solely responsible for that constituency's concerns.

Any system of proportional representation would destroy that local link. Even the single transferable vote (STV) in single-member constituencies would do damage. Rather than achieve positive support, a candidate would strive to be the least disliked (to attract second preferences) and therefore avoid difficult issues.

All other proportional representation systems would require, at least, massive multi-member constituencies, breaking the local link and allowing back-passing to other members for the same division. MEPs' experience shows that it is impossible to keep close personal links with the electors in divisions of half a million adults.

The public should beware the siren voice and defend our system of local representative democracy through which it has been able to send its local champions to Parliament over the centuries.

Yours faithfully,
JACQUES ARNOLD,
House of Commons.

Not top of the pops

From Mrs Mary E. J. Fox
Sir, In the light of recent observations by HRH the Prince of Wales on the study of Shakespeare (report, April 23), you might be interested in a recent experience of a friend, trying to buy a cassette of *Macbeth* to help her son who was studying for his GCSE.

At the first shop the young assistant told her that she had not heard of that group and was in the charts? At the second shop she helped the young assistant by telling him it was a play. "Who wrote it?" was the rejoinder.

Yours faithfully,
MARY E. J. FOX,
Stone Lea, Sedgwick,
Kendal, Cumbria.
May 8.

Patronising matrons?

From Mr R. J. Wilson
Sir, I have today completed a questionnaire supporting the application of my Director of Music, a distinguished gentleman, to be a matron to have charge of children licensed to take part in entertainments. All the questions refer to the female sex, and the word itself is of course derived from the Latin *mater*.

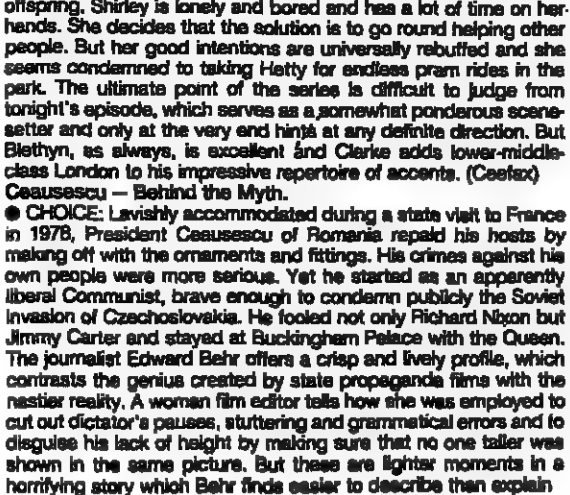
It is not time for the male sex to become as sensitive as the female, and for "matron" to be as unacceptable to some as "chairman" or "manhole".

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN WILSON (Headmaster),
Trinity School,
Shirley Park, Croydon, Surrey.
May 7.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number (071 782 5046).

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax 5.30 BBC Breakfast News
9.05 Gloria Liza. Gloria Hunniford and guests discuss topical issues
9.45 Dish of the Day. Cookery ideas from Rosemary Moon 9.55
It's Easy. Dressmaking tips
10.00 News and regional news followed by weather 10.05 Playdays
10.25 Stoppit and Tidyp (r) 10.35 Turnabout (r)
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 People Today. Includes
Health UK with Martyn Lewis investigating the importance of
dietary fibre
12.00 News, regional news followed by weather 12.05 Rosemary
Conley's Diet and Fitness Club. Fitness and healthy eating tips.
12.30 Scene Today presented by Judi Spiers and Tim Grundy live
from Pebble Mill. 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Turnabout. Wordpower quiz
2.15 Film: I Dream Too Much (1935, b/w). Charming musical which
relied on the screen debut of opera singer Lily Pons. The career of a
struggling opera composer (Henry Ford) is given a much-needed
boost when his unambitious wife shoots to stardom as a singer
and populariser of his pieces. With a musical score by Jerome
Kern and Dorothy Fields and co-starring Lucille Ball. Directed by
John Cromwell. Northern Ireland: Open House 3.00 Greenfingers
The Flintstones 3.15 Cuckoo Draw McGraw (r) 4.00 Piggy (r) 4.10
Happy Families. Episode one of a 12-part children's drama (r)
4.25 SuperTed (r) 4.35 Dungeons and Dragons (r)
5.00 Newsround 5.05 The Lowdown. A look at the lives of two deaf
children, set to a soundtrack that simulates noises deaf people
hear. (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside
Lilbit
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. Weather
6.30 Regional news magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Desert. Carla Lane's Liverpool sitcom about the resourceful
Boswell family (r). (Ceefax)
7.30 EastEnders. More cockney chaos in Albert Square. (Ceefax)
8.00 Dad's Army. Home front comedy with the crinkly comrades-in-
arms of Walmington-on-Sea (r). (Ceefax)
8.30 Big Break. Green baize game show. (Ceefax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news
and weather
9.30 All Good Things.
CHOICE: Lesley Bruce's six-part series Brenda Blethyn and the
seemingly ubiquitous Warren Clarke as Shirley and Phil, a couple
entering middle age who find themselves with an unplanned baby.
Little Betty turns out to be gorgeous but her arrival has an
unfortunate effect on mum. Far from being absorbed by the new
fellowship, Shirley is lonely and bored and has a lot of time on her
hands. She decides that the solution is to go round helping other
people. But her good intentions are universally rebuffed and she
seems condemned to taking Betty for endless pram rides in the
park. The ultimate point of the series is difficult to judge from
tonight's episode, which serves as a somewhat ponderous scene-
setter and only at the very end hints at any definite direction. But
Blethyn, as always, is excellent and Clarke adds lower-middle-
class London to his impressive repertoire of accents. (Ceefax)
10.20 Ceausescu - Behind the Myth.
CHOICE: Lavishly accommodated during a state visit to France
in 1978, President Ceausescu of Romania repaid his hosts by
making off with the ornaments and fittings. His crimes against his
own people were more serious. Yet he started as an apparently
benevolent Communist, brave enough to condemn publicly the Soviet
invasion of Czechoslovakia. He looked not only Richard Nixon but
Jimmy Carter and stayed at Buckingham Palace with the Queen.
The journalist Edward Behr offers a crisp and lively profile, which
contrasts the genius created by state propaganda films with the
nascent reality. A woman film editor tells how she was employed to
cut out Ceausescu's pauses, stuttering and grammatical errors and to
disguise his lack of height by making sure that no one taller was
shown in the same frame. But these are lighter moments in a
horrifying story which Behr finds easier to describe than explain



Profiling the rise and fall of a dictator: Edward Behr (10.20pm)

11.20 Cagney and Lacey. Tye Daly and Sharon Glass star as the
resilient but vulnerable New York policewomen (r). Northern
Ireland: Open House
12.10am Weather

BBC 2

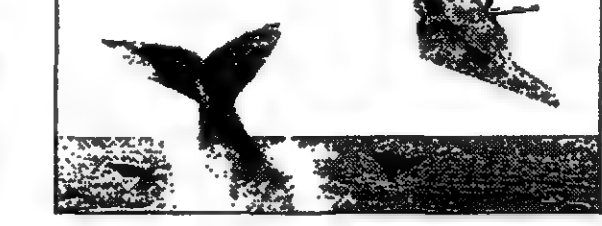
7.10 Open University: Public Place and Private Space. Ends at 7.35
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
9.00 Schools on Two
2.15 The Good Old Way: The Watsons. The first of a four-part look at
the pioneers of folk music revival visits a Yorkshire family in the
forefront of the folk revival of the last 50 years (r) 2.35 Sign Extra.
Magazine for the hearing impaired (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live 3.50 News
regional news and weather
4.00 Emily Blunt. Robert Robinson referees another round of the word
challenge (r)
4.30 Plunder. Patrick Moore's turn to rifle through the BBC archives
5.00 Who Cares Now? Mrs. Godfrey Goes to Rawalpindi. Dr
Jonathan Miller follows the story of 78-year-old Mrs. Edith Godfrey,
and a difficult decision for her family and doctor who feel she would
be better off in care, while Mrs. Godfrey is anxious to stay in her
own home. (Ceefax)
5.30 Gardeners' World. Heather Angel, former President of the Royal
Horticultural Society, gives a masterclass in garden photography (r)
6.00 Film: The Cockleshell Heroes (1955). Joe Foweraker, Trevor Howard
and Dora Bryan star in this competent second world war drama,
based on the true story of a Royal Marines mission to destroy
German warships in Bordeaux harbour. Directed by Josef Felfel
7.35 Animation Now: Public Works. Surreal animation from Denmark
7.45 Assignment: Awakening of the Goddess. Brian Barton reports on
the rise of the Hindu fundamentalist party in India - the right-wing
Bharatiya Janata Party. As voting begins in the Indian elections on
May 21, the expected gains for the BJP would mean increased
influence in the government of India. The BJP - a party previously
on the fringe of Indian politics - is understandably feared by the
Muslim community for its extreme nationalist and anti-Muslim
views. Assignment examines the roots of the party's rise and asks
whether it needs to take on board wider social issues in order to
become a serious political force.
8.30 Cheeky: Opening Out. Episode three of the nine-part drama
developed by John Godber. School welfare officer Des Bedford (Tony
Armstrong) finds a tough battle on his hands trying to argue the
social benefits of school education, after the parents of one of the
most gifted children at David Lloyd George Comprehensive School
decide to teach their daughter at home. (Ceefax)
9.00 Twin Peaks. Sheriff Truman turns to the bottle following Josie's
death, while Agent Cooper receives disturbing news from the Log
Lady. Kyle MacLachlan and Michael Ontkean lead this week's
episode of the David Lynch offbeat soap. (Ceefax)
9.50 A Secret World of Sex: The Other Love.
CHOICE: The six-part series of sexual taboos in Britain during
the first half of this century looks at the experiences of lesbians
and gay men. The strength of the series, which has been a
little under the spotlight, has been the willingness of ordinary people
to go before the cameras and talk freely about their personal lives.
Statistics and surveys are no substitute for first-hand testimony
and through these honest and often moving interviews the series
has helped to illuminate a largely uncharted area of social history.
Tonight's contributors recall the intense hostility towards gays
and lesbians before the second world war. Men were forced to lead
double lives and women to embark on hopeless marriages, just to
preserve respectability. Having given in to the pressures, one
lesbian got her own back by turning up on her wedding day in
black. (Ceefax)
10.20 Lucinda Lambton's Alphabet of Britain: A is for Art Nouveau (r).
(Ceefax)
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow. Includes a report from Monmouth
about this week's by-election
11.15 The Late Show. Includes a look at who is bidding for the new
television franchises 11.55 Weather
12.00 Open University: Technology - Marketing the Micro. Ends at
12.30am



Forbidden love: pre-second world war lesbians (8.30pm)

ITV

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Cross Wits. Game show hosted by Tom O'Connor 9.55 Thames
News and weather
10.00 The Time... The Place... Topical discussion series
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine programme presented by Judy
Finnigan and Richard Madeley
12.10 Rod, Jane and Freddie tell stories and sing songs about
improvisation (r)
12.30 News and weather with John Suchet. Weather 1.10 Thames News and
weather with Bob Holman
1.20 Home and Away 1.50 A Country Practice
2.20 Take the High Road. Scottish Highland drama series 2.50 Win,
Lose or Draw. Charades show with guests testing their drawing
skills. Hosted by Danny Baker
3.15 ITN News 3.25 ITN News Headlines 3.25 Families.
Soap linking the north of England with Australia
3.55 The Wombles. (Ceefax) 4.00 What a Mess (r) 4.15 The Return of
Dogtanian 4.40 Press Gang. Children's drama series with the
teenage newshounds. (Ceefax)
5.10 Blockbusters with Bob Holman
5.40 News and weather with Carol Barnes. (Ceefax) Weather
5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Spradley with news of the Living
Churchyard scheme
6.00 Home and Away (r)
6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 Emmerdale
7.30 Thames Reports. Includes Peter Julien, the out-of-work interior
decorator who is receiving £2,000 a week from the state to help
pay the mortgage on his £700,000 Hampstead home, defending
himself against accusations that he is 'conning' the system
8.00 The Bill. Saints and Sinners. WPC Adams (Tricia Goodfellow) is
determined to go ahead with a private prosecution for an assault.
Despite her image as a trouble-maker, however, she finds an ally in a
most unexpected quarter. (Ceefax)
8.30 Fiddlers Three: We Don't Want to Lose You. Uninspired office
comedy starring Peter Davison and Paula Wilton. (Ceefax)
9.00 Chancer. Rianranran. Drama series with Clive Owen as the
scheming Derek Love, aka Steven Crane. Dex and Piers have
stolen the membership lists of the casino chain run by Blake and
Franklyn so they can start their own private gaming club at
Wintergate. (Ceefax)
10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Trevor McDonald. (Ceefax)
Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather

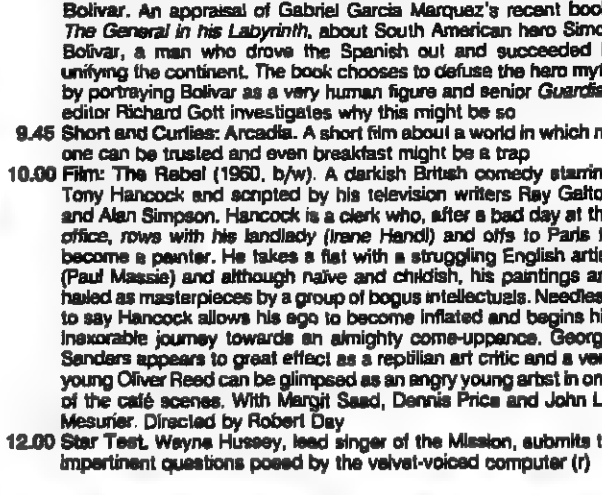


Environmental warfare: a graphic confrontation (10.40pm)

10.40 Viewpoint '91: Top Guns and Toxic Whales.
CHOICE: A cogent documentary from the team responsible for
Can Polar Bears' from Waters' argues that as the cold war thaws
international conflicts will be increasingly caused by environmental
issues. The arguments are hardly new but they are forcefully
presented, helped by useful graphics and expert comment.
Echoing the BBC's Water Wars, the film suggests that Egypt
could come to blows with Ethiopia and the Sudan over the Nile.
It shows how climate change and soil erosion are forcing people off
their land and sending millions of environmental refugees towards
the borders of the rich countries. It recaps the grimy facts about
industrial pollution. If the material is familiar, so are the solutions -
reducing population growth, conserving fossil fuels, writing off
third world debts. But it is right to be reminded that they could be
implemented for a fraction of what nations are spending on arms
11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H
12.30am This Week 35 Years on the Front Line. Julian Maynon's
secret film of Poland's first shipyard strikes, Gdansk - The
Impossible Strike (r)
1.00 Videoview. A review of the latest video releases
1.30 How Was It For You? Discussion programme in which Henry Kelly
asks guests Tony Blackburn, Sally Burton and Anne Rasmussen
about living alone
2.00 Donatuz. Phil Donatuz discusses referees who are abandoned by
their former employers
3.00 60 Minutes. American news and current affairs magazine
4.00 Entertainment UK. Up-to-the-minute guide to the best in film,
theatre, dance and music from across the country
5.00 Coming of Age. American comedy series (r)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Neilson. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily. Includes a report from the Cannes Film
Festival
6.25 Schools
12.00 The Parliament Programme
12.30 Business Daily presented by Susannah Simons
1.00 Sesame Street. Entertaining learning for pre-school viewers
2.00 Rainbow Serpent. Aboriginal barrister Michael Mansell
attempts to retrieve the skull of one of his ancestors from its
current home at the University of Edinburgh. Last in the series
2.30 Channel 4 Racing from York. Rough Scott introduces live
coverage of the 2.35, 3.05, 3.40 and 4.10 races. The race
commentator is Graham Goode
4.30 Fifties-on-One. Fast-paced quiz show hosted by William
S. Stewart
5.00 Beat That. In this edition a group of Liverpoolian youngsters
attempts to make a video
5.30 Listening Eye: Our World, Our Future. Series focusing on issues
important to the deaf and hard of hearing community. In this
edition, Britain's young deaf people talk about the raw deal they
feel they are getting from society and the inadequate education,
poor job opportunities and severely restricted access to arts and
entertainment as examples. With subtitles
6.00 Duet. Satin Doll. Sitcom about an unlikely couple living in Los
Angeles
6.30 Happy Days. Fifties-set American sitcom starring Henry Winkler
7.00 Channel 4 News presented by Jon Snow and Zainab Badawi.
(Teletext)
7.50 Comment
8.00 Civil War: Liberty. This episode of the series looking at the war
between King Charles I and his Parliament focuses on the huge
shift in attitudes and ideas precipitated by the breakdown in
censorship. Radicals were given access to printing presses,
radical religious men challenged the church and its teachings,
while soldiers confronted their military commanders. Communities
were started and many joined the call for liberty, democracy and
religious freedom
8.30 Nature Watch. Julian Pettifer talks to the British explorer Sir
Ranulph Fiennes at his home in Exmoor. Fiennes made a
celebrated transglobal expedition via both North and South Poles
and here he reflects on his extraordinary life and career and
reveals his plans for a vanishing countryside. (Teletext)
9.00 Rear Window. A Painter of Magical Realism. This film focuses on
Alfredo Calzad, a self-taught painter who moved to New York from
Guatemala and whose oil paintings reflect a society in which
death, sex, love and violence are integral parts. He is interviewed
in New York and talks about his life and art. Followed by Liberating
Bolivar. An appraisal of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's recent book,
The General and the Artist, about South American dictatorships.
Bolivar, a man who drove the Spanish out and succeeded in
unifying the continent. The book chooses to defuse the hero myth
by portraying Bolivar as a very human figure and senior Guardian
editor Richard Gott investigates why this might be so
9.45 Short and Curious: Arcadia. A short film about a world in which
no one can be trusted and even breakfast might be a trap
10.00 Film: The Rebel (1950, b/w). A classic British comedy starring
Tony Hancock and scripted by his television writer Ray Galton
and Alan Simpson. Hancock is a clerk who, after a bad day at the
office, rows with his landlady (Irene Handl) and off to Paris to
become a painter. He takes a flat with a struggling English artist
(Paul Massie) and although naive and childlike, his paintings are
hailed as masterpieces by a group of bogus intellectuals. Needless
to say Hancock allows his ego to become inflated and begins his
inexorable journey towards an unlikely come-uppance. George
Seymour appears to great effect as a republican critic and a very
young Oliver Reed can be glimpsed as an angry young artist in one
of the café scenes. With Margit Sand, Dennis Price and John Le
Mesurier. Directed by Robert Day
12.00 Star Trek. Wayne Huxley, lead singer of the Mission, submits to
impertinent questions posed by the voice-voiced computer (r)



Tribute to a legendary saxophonist: John Coltrane (12.30am)

12.30am Jazz on a Summer's Night: The Coltrane Legacy. A
celebration of performances by legendary saxophonist John
Coltrane, interspersed with interviews with his close musician
friends. Ends at 1.40

TV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except 5.10pm-5.40 5.40
Sundays 5.25-7.00 Apple News 7.30-8.00
The 12.35-1.00am Murphy's Law (Gee)
2.00 Entertainment UK 3.00 Desert
4.00 Stand Up 4.30 Desert Superstars 5.00-
5.30 Holo
BORDER
As London except 5.20pm-5.30 The
Young Doctors 5.40-6.40 Home and Away
6.00 Lovers 6.30-7.00 Desert
7.30-8.00 Enterprise Challenge
11.40 The New Avengers 12.00am Superstars
of Wrestling 1.40 Film: Precious
(Jennifer Lawrence, Henry Ford, 3.40 Night
Best 4.35 About Britain 5.00-5.30 Jostler
CENTRAL
As London except 5.20pm-7.00 Central
News 7.30-8.00 One World 11.40-1.25am
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of Wrestling 1.40 Film: Precious
(Jennifer Lawrence, Henry Ford, 3.40 Night
Best 4.35 About Britain 5.00-5.30 Jostler
RADIO 3
6.55-6.55am Open University (FM
only): What Drives
Technology?
6.55-7.00am News Headlines
7.00am Desert: Desert
(Symphony in C: French
National Radio Orchestra
under Beecham)
7.30am News
7.35am Morning Concert (cont):
Rameau Suite, Les Boréades:
Orchestra of 18th Century
under Frans Brüggen; Les
(Ave Maria: Ensemble Pro
Cantone Antiqua; Early Music
Under Ensemble Hamelin
under Tilmann; French
Quartet No 1 in C minor:
Daniel)
8.30am Desert: Desert
8.35am Composers of the Week: Box
of a Rose 1 Sing (BBC
Northern Singers, with Barry
Boris, tenor; Charlotte Best,
soprano; David Fletcher, alto,
Jeffrey Box, double-bass,
under Stephen Wilkinson;
Symphony Variations (LPO
under Thomson, with Margaret
Fingerhut, piano)
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Nissan legal case heard in private

A LEGAL battle over distribution rights between Nissan, the Japanese car firm, and Nissan UK, its British distributor, moved behind closed doors at the High Court yesterday after a judge was told the evidence was "sensitive".

The case centres on plans by Nissan Japan to strip Nissan UK of the right to deal in its vehicles. That decision, which followed a dispute between the Japanese company and Octav Botmar, who built up Nissan UK, is said to threaten 10,000 jobs in Nissan UK's 400-dealer network.

The judge is hearing two preliminary applications: one by Nissan UK for an injunction to stop Nissan Japan terminating its exclusive distribution agreement; the other by Nissan Japan for a ruling that the dispute should be dealt with under a private arbitration agreement, not by the High Court.

Tank order confidence

VICKERS is confident it will win the contest to supply the army's new main battle tank by setting up a project team to prepare for production of Challenger 2 at its Leeds and Newcastle factories. The management group will begin discussions with suppliers to ensure work can begin immediately an order is confirmed.

The government is believed to have deferred an announcement about the £300 million order for at least a month. The Challenger 2 has faced tough competition from the latest model of the Abrams tank, manufactured by General Dynamics of America.

Greenall rises

Greenall Whitley, the North-west public houses and hotels group, has announced interim pre-tax profits up 2 per cent at £24.1 million (£23.7 million) to March 29. The interim dividend is being raised 10 per cent to 4.4p (4p). The company plans to change its name to the Greenalls Group.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7235 (+0.0135)
German mark 2.9678 (-0.0018)
Exchange index 91.8 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1942.8 (-31.9)
FT-SE 100 2486.8 (-37.7)
New York Dow Jones 2915.82 (-4.25)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 26093.20 (-181.09)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS:
Sanderson Bio 137 1/2p (+13p)
FALLS:
Redland 58 1/2p (-11p)
Berlow Rand 71 1/2p (-10p)
BOC 58 1/2p (-13p)
Cable & Wireless 58 1/2p (-12p)
Scott TV 68 1/2p (-15p)
Brent Walker 40p (-15p)
Eurotunnel Units 48 1/2p (-14p)
BAT 68 1/2p (-16p)
United Newspapers 35 1/2p (-11p)
Read Intl 42 1/2p (-14p)
News Corp 31 1/2p (-11p)
Bristol 31 1/2p (-11p)
Roya 43 1/2p (-12p)
St Proteus 34p (-10p)
Laporte 57 1/2p (-13p)
Grand Mer 800p (-20p)
Whitbread A 48 1/2p (-13p)
Allied-Lyons 54 1/2p (-11p)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 12%
3-month interbank 11 1/2p-11 3/4p
3-month eligible bills 11 1/2p-11 3/4p
US: Prime Rate 6 1/4%
Federal Funds 5 1/4p
3-month Treasury Bills 5.45-5.45%
30-year bonds 9 1/2p-9 3/4p

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.7235
£ DM 2.9678
£ Sfr 2.5000
£ FF 10.0356
£ Yen 240.82
£ Index 58.2
ECU 20.69316
£ ECU 1.42243
New York: New York
\$ £1.7235
\$ DM 2.9678
\$ Sfr 2.5000
\$ FF 10.0356
\$ Yen 240.82
\$ Index 58.2
\$ ECU 20.69316
\$ ECU 1.42243

GOLD

London: Gold
AM \$355.75 pm \$356.85
close \$357.00-357.50 (£207.10-207.60)
New York: Gold
Comex \$357.05-357.55

NORTH SEA

Brent (1987) \$19.45 bid (\$19.50)
Dentons (latest trading price)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 131.4 March (1987=100)

Rivals wait in the wings to take over lucrative ITV region

TVS reveals £8.3m loss as deadline nears

By MATTHEW BOND

BARELY 48 hours before applications have to be submitted for the new commercial television franchises, TVS Entertainment, the existing ITV contractor for southern England, announced pre-tax losses of £8.3 million, with no reserves to pay a final dividend.

TVS, which since December has been chaired by Randolph Agnew, former ConsGold chief executive, refused to make any comment on the loss.

All questions, it said, would be answered tomorrow when it will unveil a plan to raise new equity to help pay for and run the new franchise. This injection of new capital, however, is to be conditional on TVS retaining its franchise, an objective which many analysts believe is now beyond it.

In recent weeks there has been speculation that Associated Newspapers might link up with TVS, possibly

subscribing for up to a 20 per cent stake, the maximum permitted for newspaper groups under Independent Television Commission rules. But in the last few days Associated appears to have switched its favours to other bidders.

Support for TVS could therefore come from TVS's two increasingly influential French shareholders, Canal Plus and Compagnie Generale des Eaux, which collectively own 20 per cent.

TVS's application will be up against stiff competition from Meridian, a joint venture between MAI and SelectTV, and from CPV-TV, a consortium led by Virgin, David Frost and Charterhouse Bank. The company's vulnerability stems directly from its disastrous purchase of MTM Entertainment, the American production company which made *Hill Street Blues*, bought in July 1988 for £190 million, and now believed to be worth less than one third of that. A £20.7 million write-down in

the value of MTM's library is the biggest contributor to a £25.1 million exceptional loss. That exceptional item resulted in the company making a £8.3 million pre-tax loss in the year to end-December, compared to a £16.2 million profit for a 14-month period to end-December 1989. With no final dividend (5p) the total remains 3p (10p).

In a statement, TVS said it had now made "full provision against its investment in MTM. This has resulted in a deficit on distributable reserves and therefore TVS is currently unable to pay further dividends." The full provision follows the company's failure to find a buyer for MTM, which was put up for sale at the beginning of 1990. Mr Agnew was known to be anxious to complete the sale of MTM ahead of the franchise application deadline.

The MTM purchase was the brainchild of James Gatward, who was chief executive of TVS until just before last Christmas when he was effectively replaced by Mr Agnew. Initially, Mr Gatward stayed on to run the British television interests, but two months later he resigned.

Mr Gatward has not been the only departure since Mr Agnew took over. More than 100 of the company's 900 staff have been made redundant, following a decision to continue production at the company's Southampton studios. Yesterday the company warned that more redundancies would be required in the current year, reviving fears that up to half the company's



Time running out: Randolph Agnew's company was silent as the deadline loomed

staff could eventually lose their jobs. Redundancy costs of £4.7 million have been included in the exceptional item.

Despite the losses and the failure to sell MTM, TVS said it is still confident of retaining its franchise. "With its new management structure and TVS's contingent equity financing arrangements in place, TVS Television is confident of its ability to mount a powerful and competitive bid

for the Channel 3 licence for south and south-east England, based on its programming record and further reductions in costs."

Meridian Broadcasting, the consortium bidding against TVS Television for the south and south-east Channel 3 licence, yesterday strengthened its position by signing Tracey Ullman, Robbie Coltrane and Rowan Atkinson to its line-up of talent. (Melinda Wittstock, Media

Correspondent, writes) Ms Ullman, the comedienne, is to return to British television screens after four years in the US with her own perspective on the English class system, *A Class Act*, made by SelectTV.

Rowan Atkinson's independent production company, Tiger Television, is to develop a 12-part series for Meridian called *A to B*.

Times, page 23

Brent Walker warns of big loss

By MARTIN WALLER

BRENT Walker, the leisure group, has postponed the announcement of its full-year figures and issued a warning that the need to make huge writedowns on its crumbling asset base will mean the eventual result will show "a substantial loss".

The shares, unsettled by weekend reports about the group's finances, lost a third of their value at one stage and ended 16p lower at 40p. Brent Walker is in talks with its bankers over a desperately needed financial restructuring to cut debts of more than £1.3 billion. It is thought that pressure is being placed on George Walker, the founder and chief executive, to resign.

The group said in a statement to the International Stock Exchange that the figures for the year to end December would be released next Monday. They had been expected tomorrow.

While the accounts are not yet complete, and professional valuations of some assets not finalised, the directors added, current information suggested that "although the group produced profits at the operating level, it sustained a substantial loss for the year after taking into account interest, exceptional items and taxation".

City analysts have not made profits forecasts for Brent Walker since the group ran into refinancing trouble last year.

The balance sheet at December 31 last, to be published with the figures, would show a "major reduction" in shareholders' funds, the directors said.

Indications are that last year's net assets of £1 billion have slumped to just £100 million, while the need to make a large extraordinary charge will push the group into an attributable loss running into hundreds of millions of pounds.

Most of yesterday's fall in the share price came ahead of the announcement. The market fears that if the figures circulated at the weekend are correct, the shares are almost worthless. Mr Walker has agreed to a lessening of his role at the top of the company he built up almost single-handedly. However, he is believed to be against the disposal of the William Hill betting shop chain, the group's most saleable asset, preferring to see property assets, like its half-stake in London's Trocadero, sold.

Borrowing by consumers falls to a six-year low

By COLIN NARBROUG, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CONSUMER confidence showed no signs of recovery in the latest official figures, casting fresh doubt on the chances of the consumer-led recovery the government has forecast in the second half of this year and raising political pressure for more interest rate cuts.

Lending to consumers rose by only £280 million in the first three months this year, the smallest quarterly increase since the current series was introduced six years ago, according to the Central Statistical Office.

But share prices in London fell sharply as hopes of a 1/2 point cut in interest rates receded after Friday's move by the Bank of England to hold base rates at 12 per cent for the next two weeks. The FT-SE 100 index closed near its low of the day with a fall of 37.7 at 2,486.8 in thin trading.

Dealers were on the defensive after Friday's 50-point fall on Wall Street. Fund managers are continuing to take an increasingly pessimistic view of the economy with companies still reporting no sign of the expected up-turn. Gifts closed with falls of about 4% at the longer end.

The credit data provided fresh confirmation of deep recession, with relatively high interest rates keeping con-

sumers on the defensive. Retail price figures on Friday are set to show a dramatic slowdown in annual inflation, falling to close to 6 per cent in April from 8.4 per cent in March, suggesting scope for lower interest rates.

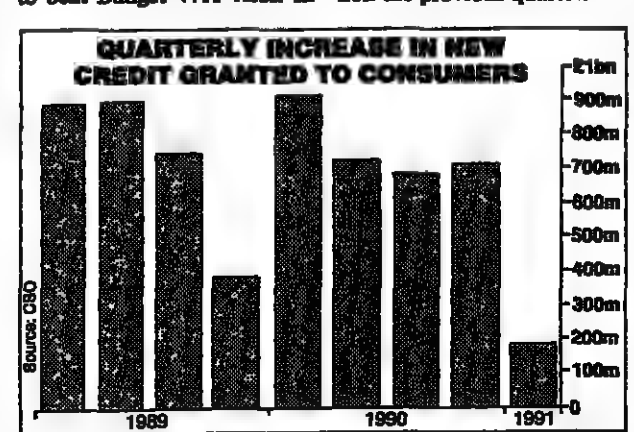
But underlying inflation is proving stubborn, and given the government's priority objective of defeating inflation, the Treasury is likely to be reluctant to move too close to the monetary reins tightly.

The 3.6 per cent jump in volume retail sales in March reported in the final CSO data was seen as a poor guide to the trend in consumer spending, as it mainly reflected the rush to beat Budget VAT rises. In

the first three months, sales were 0.8 per cent higher than in the final quarter of 1990, but 0.6 per cent lower than in 1990's first quarter.

Consumer borrowing in March rose by a seasonally-adjusted £122 million after a £98 million rise in February and £60 million in January. The £280 million first quarter increase compared with a £712 million rise in the final quarter of 1990 and £911 million in first quarter 1990.

Net credit card debt rose by £77 million in March after falling £25 million in February and £14 million in January. The first quarter rise was £38 million, down from £205 million the previous quarter.



Ford recalls over 1m vehicles

From PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

FORD Motor Company, which is forecast to make its first annual loss in a decade this year, is recalling more than a million vehicles to replace platinum-plated exhaust controls, electrical wiring, and fuel pumps.

While industry analysts say the recalls could cost up to \$500 million, a Ford spokesman said: "We are not putting a figure on this, but that estimate is far above what we expect this will cost. That estimate probably includes a 100 per cent return rate, which, typically, we do not get. This is going to be expensive because of the number of cars."

The most expensive part of the recall will be the replacement of the exhaust control catalysts on 679,000 1984-85 5-litre models, which include the Thunderbird, Cougar, Mustang and Continental. Car specialists say that alone could cost up to \$200 per car. Tests by Ford and the Environmental Protection Agency show

that emission levels are still too high. A New York Ford dealer said each catalyst cost \$400 plus the labour charge to fit it. The bill to replace the two on a 1984 Thunderbird would total \$1,000. Analysts say Ford's buying power could reduce raw material costs to as little as \$170 a car. However, they say that will still cost Ford more than \$115 million, without accounting for workshop time and recall costs.

Philip Wylie, of Salomon Brothers in London, said: "This will amount to a lot of money for Ford in a year when the company can ill afford any extra spending."

Ford is also having to replace electrical wiring on 270,000 1988-89 Taurus and Sable cars, which it says presents a potential fire hazard, while 60,000 7.3-litre diesel trucks need the sensor on the fuel injection pump replaced. The majority of the recall will apply to America. Traders wiped \$118 million off the value of Ford shares by lunchtime yesterday, when the price eased 25 cents to \$32.375.

Harold Poling, chairman of Ford, told industry leaders at the weekend that the car market was flat. Production is estimated to be at a 33-year low. Ford, which cut its dividend 47 per cent, lost \$884 million in the first three months of this year, compared with a \$506.2 million profit for the same period last year. Group production in the first quarter dropped 25 per cent.

Overseas, America's second largest car maker lost \$208 million and was hard hit in Britain, where the market was described by Ford as being in a worse state than that of America. Jaguar, which Ford bought two years ago, is expected to report a pre-tax loss of \$117 million for last year. More than 6,500 jobs will be lost in Europe as part of Ford's \$3 billion cost-cutting programme.

In Britain, more than 100,000 Escorts and Orion were called back to dealers last week for safety checks to electrical wiring, while 187,000 Ford Fiestas had to be recalled in January for checks to a ventilation flap.

Labour ends tiered board idea

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE Labour party has abandoned two-tier boards of directors as a solution to defects in the way companies are run, but would seek a review of corporate governance, Dr Marjorie Mowlem, the Opposition spokesman on corporate affairs, said.

Introducing a paper on Labour thinking on auditing and accountancy, she made it clear that the party also favours audit committees of boards being made compulsory.

Dr Mowlem said a Labour government would want to ensure that the way boards were constructed would ensure ethical business standards and that companies were managed in the interests of all concerned parties.

Two-tier boards would probably not fit the British way.

Unless decisions were made about the form of employee participation, however, Britain might be saddled with inappropriate German or French arrangements as a result of European Community directives.

Labour is unlikely to impose boardroom reforms such as making non-executive directors compulsory, Dr Mowlem said, "because this could deny managements the right to manage".

Offices take the floor

MORE than two centuries of City history will come to an end next year when the Stock Exchange trading floor is converted into offices (Jonathan Prynn writes).

Peter Rawlins, the chief executive, yesterday confirmed that the exchange's primary markets division will occupy the space used until Big Bang by jobbers and brokers.

The last tenants of the trading floor, the London Traded Options Market, will move out towards the end of this year, when it merges with the London International Financial Futures Exchange.

The Stock Exchange trading floor dates back to the mid-18th century when dealing was carried out in the Jonathan's office house. In 1773, trading moved to the Royal Exchange. The present trading floor has been in use since 1973.

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T14/5

Spar to relaunch after 10 years

By DEREK HARRIS

SPAR, biggest of the voluntary groups of independent retailers operating under a "symbol" brand, has chosen the tenth anniversary of its convenience store chain to relaunch the operation. It is by far Britain's biggest convenience store operator with well over 2,000 outlets.

The banner "Eight Till Late" is to be abandoned, but "Spar" will stay on the shop fascia. The present red and green colour scheme is to be supplanted by one slightly more green. "It is a softer look and a new one to bring us up to the minute," John Irish, the Spar UK chairman and chief executive, said.

The changes were announced at a conference in London of Spar retailers and wholesalers to mark the anniversary. The emphasis in future will be on core sales lines: alcohol, cigarettes, soft drinks, confectionery and snacks. More fresh foods are being introduced.

Spar will also computerise further. So far there are 120 stores with electronic point-of-sale systems and 24 have on-line facilities to enable constant monitoring of sales trends.

Mr Irish, who introduced Spar's convenience store concept after studying the phenomenon in the United States, said he was unworried, "though watchful", at the prospect of food discounters like Aldi and Netto moving in from mainland Europe. They were more likely to take market share from the big grocery chains, he said.

The convenience sector in the United Kingdom is estimated to be running at about £3 billion in annual sales through about 7,000 outlets. Spar's total sales in its last full year to May were £1,125 billion, up £130 million or 13 per cent up on the previous 12 months.

Mr Irish forecasts that within ten years, the UK will have 20,000 convenience stores, with £20 billion in annual sales. Convenience stores such as Spar typically open from eight in the morning until late at night, including Sundays.

There are 20,000 Spar outlets altogether in 20 countries. Germany has the largest concentration of outlets, with 6,000 outlets in the West and another 2,000 coming on stream in the East.

Severn Trent pays £212m for Biffa waste business

By MARTIN WALLER

SEVERN Trent, one of Britain's largest water companies, has emerged as the £212 million purchaser of Biffa, the waste collection and disposal business, from BET, the debt-plagued industrial conglomerate.

BET put Biffa up for tender in February as part of a cost-cutting exercise. Various potential purchasers were reported, including several of the water companies and other waste management groups such as Laidlaw of Canada and Britain's Atwoods.

Severn Trent is buying a business comprising 26 landfill sites in Britain, four in Belgium and a well developed refuse collection operation which has already made inroads into the fast-growing public sector market as local authorities contract out their services.

It is financed through borrowings taken on by the holding company, with no recourse to cash balances held by Severn Trent's main business, the regulated supply of water to householders and industries in its area.

John Bellak, the chairman, did not expect any problems from the regulatory authorities. "We were given a package of financing to run the water business on privatisation. We are not using that," he said.

The purchase represents an exit multiple of 18.3 times Biffa's pre-interest and pre-tax profits of £17.8 million for the year to end-March, although once an exceptional credit is disregarded, the multiple rises to about 20.

Severn Trent retains a 29.9 per cent stake in Caird Group, another waste management company, after an aborted bid last year, and the Biffa purchase makes no difference to the situation, said Mr Bellak. "The options available to us are exactly the same as they were before, to sell, to buy or to do nothing," said Andrew Stone of Hoare Govett. "With Caird,



Buying from BET, John Bellak, of Severn Trent, which is expanding in waste handling with its existing management team and free of debt. Its shareholders' funds were £85 million at end-March, and a big write-off of goodwill will be necessary on Severn Trent's balance sheet at the end of the current financial year.

Analysts regarded the price fetched by Biffa as fair, although it fell short of the highest estimates. "We've been supportive of a move into waste disposal for some time," said Andrew Stone of Hoare Govett. "With Caird,

obviously it wasn't well researched and probably the advice was poor as well. There's no doubt there is a growing market."

He expected Severn Trent, which already has a small waste management side, to grow by strengthening the merged business in the areas in which it was strong, in the North, the Southwest and its own area across the Midlands, while peripheral operations might be sold off.

Times, page 23

Bid for Butler Cox boosts shares 99p

By PHILIP PANGLOSS

SHARES in Butler Cox, the management consultant specialising in information technology, surged 99p to 230p after news of a £14.3 million recommended cash offer from Computer Sciences Corporation, the American computer services group.

Computer Sciences, a leading supplier of information technology to industry and government, is offering 245p in cash for each Butler Cox ordinary share. There is a loan note alternative. Butler Cox shareholders will also receive a special dividend of 1.75p, payable when the offer is unconditional.

Butler Cox's board has unanimously recommended acceptance and directors, holding 36.7 per cent of the ordinary shares, have irrevocably undertaken to accept.

Butler Cox said the acquisition would result in substantial additional support and financial resources.

George Cox, the managing director of Butler Cox, said: "We have recommended acceptance of this bid because we see it as the ideal route for Butler Cox to fulfil its potential. It represents a most exciting further stage in the company's development."

The company said the acquisition fits well with CSC's existing business and will result in benefits of scale for both companies, enabling Butler Cox to develop and expand its information technology-related businesses and to compete more effectively with larger companies in its markets.

Mr Cox said: "It offers greatly enhanced capability to our clients and wider opportunities for our staff and management."

In April, Butler Cox, which came to the market in May 1989 at a flotation price of 175p, reported a 42 per cent decline in pre-tax profits for last year to £760,425.

Advance slows

THE impact of the recession on accountancy firms is shown by Robson Rhodes. The first report for the year to end April, it achieved a rise of only 2.5 per cent to £35 million in fee income, compared with a 16 per cent rise in 1989-90. Profitability was, however, maintained. During the year, the number of partners and professional staff was cut by 18 per cent to 593.

GKN starts talks on French link-up

By ROSS TYEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GKN, the vehicle parts to palette hire company, and GIAT, the French defence contractor, have begun exploratory talks about a merger of their activities in the development and manufacture of medium-weight armoured vehicles.

GKN said that if agreement is reached, further alliances may be sought with armoured vehicle producers "both inside and outside Europe".

GKN Defence, the arm in discussions with GIAT, makes the Warrior range of medium armoured vehicles with a workforce of 350 at Telford, Shropshire.

The company is involved in

the defence ministry's family of light armoured vehicles (Flam) programme.

GIAT is a partner, with Renault Vehicle Industries and Croiset Loire, in the development of a similar armoured vehicle range under the French government's VBM programme.

Closer ties will be considered under the terms of a memorandum of understanding between GKN and GIAT, which was signed in Paris on April 22.

GKN said the French and British governments appeared keen to encourage closer cooperation among defence suppliers.

Valuer named in Chelsea dispute

By MATTHEW BOND

THE row between Chelsea Football Club and Cebra Estates, its landlord, has entered a new phase with the appointment of an independent expert to determine the value of Stamford Bridge, the football club's west London ground.

William Wells, a partner at Chesterton, has been appointed to carry out the valuation by the president of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

His task will not be straightforward, however. He is required to calculate the value of the Stamford Bridge site as it was in August 1988, when Chelsea had an option to buy. Even after Mr Wells has

arrived at a figure, it is unlikely to provide an early end to the long-running dispute. The commercial property market was nearing its height in 1988, with Savills, the property agent, valuing the ground at £40 million and £60 million.

Since then, however, property values have fallen substantially, as Ken Bates, Chelsea's chairman, has been quick to point out.

However, Cebra has said that the independent expert's valuation will be binding on both sides and that if a deal is not agreed at that price, it will serve Chelsea with a notice to quit.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Cronite passes payout after £2.21m losses

CRONITE Group, the industrial holding company that recently put two of its subsidiaries into receivership after irregularities were discovered, has passed its interim dividend (1.5p) after suffering a pre-tax loss of £2.21 million (£781,000 profit) in the six months to end March.

Turnover rose from £21.1 million to £22.6 million. Trading profits from continued businesses slumped from £1.48 million to £327,000, while losses at discontinued businesses surged from £247,000 to £1.88 million. Interest payments rose to £663,000 (£452,000). There is a 13.6p loss per share (3.1p earnings). In April, Cronite put Cronite Alloys, which recycles stainless steel, and Abtex, a maker of portable fire extinguishers, into administrative receivership.

Profits slip at Sanderson

SANDERSON Electronics, the computing services group, saw pre-tax profits fall to £1.5 million (£1.78 million) in the six months to end March. Turnover rose to £10.6 million (£6.45 million). Earnings fell to 11p (14p) a share. Operating profits grew to £1.43 million. A second interim dividend of 3.3p, payable in July, makes 8.7p (8.4p) in total.

Panel setback for Etam

THE Takeover Panel has said it is not yet putting pressure on Oceana, the investment vehicle, to come up with a full takeover offer for Etam, the fashion retailer. Responding to a panel complaint by Etam, the panel said companies were given three or four weeks to make a further statement after announcing they were considering a bid.

IMI expects decline

IMI does not expect to see any recovery in its trading before the final quarter this year. Speaking at the annual meeting, Sir Eric Pountain, the chairman, said first-half profits would be lower than the £63.5 million posted a year earlier. He said: "I do not expect to see any recovery in IMI's trading before the final quarter at the earliest." He added that trading this year has been well down and the downturn would be reflected in the interim results. Shares shed 3p to 233p.

Mr Pountain said prospects for the year were almost impossible to assess. Last year, IMI made a pre-tax profit of £115.1 million, down from £125.3 million in 1989.

Holmes deal falls through

HOLMES Protection, the troubled New York security and alarm group that is listed in London, has abandoned the planned disposal of its New Jersey assets after the would-be buyer failed to come up with the money. Alert Centre was to buy the assets for between £17.5 million and \$18.5 million, but was unable to secure financing despite a 90-day extension.

Blenheim loses deputy

LAWRIE Lewis has resigned as deputy chairman of Blenheim Group, the exhibitions and conferences organiser he co-founded in 1978. He is continuing as a consultant. Mr Lewis sold his 12 per cent stake in Blenheim to Ziff Communications Company, an American publisher, last week. Blenheim has said it regards the stake taken by Ziff as a friendly one.

Ytong stake raised

RMC Group, the building materials group, said Rheinisch-Westfälische Kalkwerke, a unit of its German subsidiary, has raised its stake in Ytong, which produces aerated concrete products, to 82 per cent from 29.8 per cent via a £33.7 million payment and a merger. Ytong has seven factories in Germany and one in each of France, Portugal and Austria.

Last year's consolidated accounts for Ytong showed sales of more than DM450 million and pre-tax profit of DM31.3 million. Ytong's assets will be revalued in accordance with British accounting rules for consolidation into RMC's accounts.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

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Audit reform gathers pace

COMMENT

An unexpected consensus is developing over reform of auditing and company accounts. Auditors have come under heavy fire in the wake of spectacular collapses of public companies that had received apparently clean audit reports. Anger that audits proved useless to investors was exacerbated by the legal judgment, in the Caparo case, that auditors had no liability to third parties for their reports.

An acrimonious debate ensued in which accountants feared being set up as the scapegoats for a rise in corporate failures. From this, however, a bandwagon for reform has grown so fast that the Labour Party, keen to avoid posing a threat to the City, has been left behind.

In a surprising debate organised by the London Society of Chartered Accountants last week, Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP who has set himself up as the scourge of the profession, found many members agreeing with his strictures, if not all his proposed solutions. Mike Lickiss, president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, put forward an

agenda for change of his own, which would have seemed heresy a year ago.

Mr Lickiss sees auditors becoming agents of the public interest in exposing fraud and much else. He sees auditors' reports expanding to comment on anything from prospects and the quality of the company's financial reporting systems to environmental performance. He predicted that the institutes would discipline members for shoddy work. The profession agrees that the Caparo judgment should be reversed by legislation, though it wants this to be accompanied by measures to cap financial liability.

The climate has been changed by the profession's own reforms, inspired by Sir Ron Dearing, on setting and enforcing accounting standards. These reforms brought in other users of accounts. This has been extended to the institute's auditing practices board and may be used

more in the profession's self-regulatory role.

Debate over European Commission directives, which provided the challenge of continental methods, is now also entering British thinking, which previously assumed our system was best since British accountancy was more highly developed. The final sticking point is on reform to make auditors more independent of management.

Non-executive directors and board audit committees are the established answer to controlling rampantly irresponsible managements. But many accountants now think the same accounting firm should not audit a company's accounts for shareholders and, at the same time, provide other more financially lucrative services to management. The growing practice of

treating audits as loss leaders has changed the minds of many concerned accountants. The government has shown concern by forcing disclosure of non-audit payments to auditors. Change is on the way, without too much pain.

High gear

The Bank of England, in its role as supervisory overlord, steps back at regular intervals and surveys the performance of Britain's corporate sector. Its latest look at the dramatic deterioration in the financial position of companies in the dying years of the Eighties, contains no great surprises. The pain was there for all to see. The Old Lady does, however, draw

some interesting conclusions. On the evidence of our all-too-fallible national accounts, as well as the books of individual companies, the Bank observes that British companies not only dived deep into debt, but also did it on an alarmingly broad front. The theory that only the foolish over-borrowed would appear wrong, unless foolishness was a general phenomenon.

Industrial and commercial companies moved into financial deficit in 1988 after spending most the decade in substantial surplus.

In 1989, the deficit was 4 per cent of the gross domestic product, rising to 5 per cent the following year.

All this took place at a period of merger mania, pushing the sector's apparent net borrowing to £63 billion in 1989 before it fell to £39 billion last year amid painful retrenchment in the recessionary gloom. A large proportion of funds were raised

in the form of then so popular debt. While companies, in the view of the *Quarterly Bulletin* article, appear to have set course for indebtedness of their own volition, the Bank questions the wisdom of their action, at least from the point of view of enhanced performance. It concludes that there appears not to have been many cases in which greater indebtedness was accompanied by any significant improvement in the firm's ability to manage resultant risk. Furthermore, high gearing is identified as a common feature of a number of company failures.

The not-so-Delphic message is that Britain's corporate captains, sailing boldly in the uncharted waters of market deregulation and liberalisation, appeared to have believed the world was flat, that the economy could grow and grow in ever-expanding circles, with interest rates winds set fair. How wrong they were. The question now must be whether the corporate sector's misjudgment has made the recession worse, and whether they will be over-cautious when the recovery comes.

An exit that leaves Britain with no escape from monetary union

Jacques Delors's change of tack may give a future UK parliament little option but to accept moves to a single European currency

SO, a single European currency it is going to be. Not competing currencies, not a hard one or some other kind of "dummy" money, but the real thing: a single coin to replace, probably by the end of the century, the mark, the franc and the guinea. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, will sign up to this by the end of the year - if he is still in office.

This must be the indisputable conclusion drawn from the meeting in Luxembourg, at the weekend, of European finance ministers, who are now close to achieving what is likely to go down in the history of the EC as the most imaginative form of Euro-fudge ever cooked up.

Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, proposed, in what appeared to be a change of tack, that Britain will be granted an exit route which would make the introduction of the single currency subject to a decision by a future British parliament. He argued, with a smirk on his face, that the commission acted out of "full respect for British traditions". In return, Britain would agree to sign the treaty on monetary union by the end of the year.

It is most unlikely that a British parliament, present or future, when faced with such a daunting choice of simply agreeing or disagreeing with monetary union - for that is what M. Delors's proposal means - would dare to commit the country to become once again the laggard of Europe. Late membership of the community and delayed entry into the exchange rate mechanism have made British politicians and officials wary of the "European question".

The hard one, once thought in Whitehall to be a possible exit from Britain's European mess and a cause for much head-shaking among continental central bankers, is now

almost dead. While the Chancellor still insists that Spain lends some support to the idea, a hardening of the existing one rather than a "hard one" is the preferred route. That means a hardened one, tied to Europe's strongest currency, and not the other way round as under the British proposal. Eventually that one will become Europe's single currency, and to accommodate British traditions even further, there has even been talk in Luxembourg about the reintroduction of the shilling, if only in decimal form, as the coin's sub-unit.

With Britain's local difficulties out of the way, it is now worth turning towards the unresolved economic issues of monetary union.

The biggest unresolved issues are economic convergence and the central banking arrangements during the transitional phase of monetary union, stage two. These are currently being debated essentially between France and Germany, with other countries taking one side or the other.

It would be ironic indeed if the only Euro-sceptics left were the Germans, but this appears to be a real prospect as the hard-line stance taken by

Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, and Karl Otto Pöhl, the president of the Bundesbank, suggests.

Herr Pöhl is sceptical about convergence. If European economies have not been able to converge by 1991 despite the apparent disciplines of 12 years of the exchange rate mechanism, he told journalists on his way home, what is there to suggest that they will converge by 1996 or 1997? M. Delors suggested a *plan d'adaptation*, or a crash economic programme, but this is unlikely to solve Italy's debt problem, the result of a decade of economic mismanagement, or Britain's microeconomic



To the point: Pierre Bérégovoy knows what he means

problem of inefficient labour markets. After all, what took decades to go wrong will probably take more than five years to correct.

The other equally serious unresolved question relates to the powers of the European monetary institution, or whatever name one chooses to adopt. This point was made forcefully by Herr Waigel, who told fellow finance ministers: "A new institution in the second phase must have no functions in monetary policy and in exchange rate policies. The new institution in the second phase is, therefore, not yet a central bank. For that reason it should not

take the name of a central bank. Wrong labels lead to wrong behaviour."

The German obsession over stage two stems from a principle, frequently voiced by Herr Pöhl, of the indivisibility of monetary policy, which means that, no matter what currency a country has, that currency has to be governed and controlled by a single institution. As long as we have sterling and the mark, there will have to be national central banks. The European central bank will, therefore, assume power only on the day the new currency is introduced. The French proposal towards a federal system

of control at a time when national currencies still exist, is regarded by the Bundesbank as a means for France to exert greater control over German monetary policy.

During last weekend, the Germans replaced the British at playing hardball on European monetary union. Herr Pöhl and Herr Waigel not only insist that the European central bank be as independent as the Bundesbank with a similar obligation to preserve price stability, but also that national central banks shall become independent prior to monetary union. Needless to say, this will probably not be acceptable to Britain, where central bank independence is supported only by the Liberal Democrats and rejected by the Conservatives and the Labour party.

The French call these outstanding disputes with Germany "technical", another example of Euro-talk like the notorious "form of words" that appears capable of bridging some of the most fundamental differences. But European phraseology can do little to overcome a more fundamental problem. The faster we move towards monetary union, the greater the danger of a two-speed Europe.

Pierre Bérégovoy, the French finance minister, was blunt on this point. He said: "Yes to a united Europe, no to a Europe of two speeds, yes to a money of two speeds."

Where does all this leave Britain? After the weekend, probably in the fast lane together with Germany and France, conceivably ahead of Italy, and most certainly ahead of Spain. Despite the present recession, Britain's public finances, the main sticking point on the issue of economic convergence, are in better shape than Italy's, and even Germany's.

One can already imagine the scene in 1997 or so, when a British Chancellor of the Exchequer, unveiling an *écu* as Britain's new currency, tells us that, on the subject of monetary union, Britain has been leading Europe all the way.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

European Business Correspondent

Biffa success may dispel 'Caird effect' at Severn

A GOOD few managements of public utilities, including some of the electricity distributors floated last year, will be glad to see Severn Trent make a good fist of its purchase of Biffa, BET's waste management business.

Success would help to dispel the "Caird effect", whereby utilities have been hindered in their diversification programmes by Severn Trent's last disastrous attempt, the £78 million assault on Caird Group, another waste company.

For BET, Biffa was simply the most easily saleable asset to cut its crippling debts. Counting its American preference shares as equity, gearing halved to 40 per cent. The price it receives, representing about 20 times the latest year's earnings stripped of exceptional items, is a little below best expectations, with its quoted competitors trading at historic multiples of a little more, but it does not look bad for a fire sale. The shares, off just 1p to 179p in yesterday's falling market, yield almost 10 per cent on a p/e of 10.5.

A recent City study reckoned water companies attempting to diversify need to earn 15 per cent of profits from such other activities after five years to make these worthwhile. Severn Trent, set to report £250 million pre-tax next month for the year to end-March, is some way off, given that Biffa and its other waste management operations do not pull in £20 million a year.

While the purchase represents a good platform for growth, Severn Trent has more to do, and it bid for Caird, where it retains 29.9 per cent, cannot be ruled out. Its shares, down 4p at 276p, yield 6.7 per cent, below average for the ten water companies. The benefits from Biffa will not be immediate.

One can already imagine the scene in 1997 or so, when a British Chancellor of the Exchequer, unveiling an *écu* as Britain's new currency, tells us that, on the subject of monetary union, Britain has been leading Europe all the way.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

European Business Correspondent



Changes: Andrew Thomas, managing director of Greenall

The best explanation for this resilience seemed to be that as no one could fully understand the company's results, it was impossible to calculate how far the shares should be marked down.

In the most extraordinary high-handed way, TVS has decided that its shareholders can be left in the dark for two days. Any questions they might have about the appalling figures are to be left unanswered until tomorrow.

It is a crude attempt to dispense with the bad news ahead of the razzamatazz of tomorrow's deadline for franchise applications when only good news will be considered suitable for transmission. With the nasty results behind him, albeit by only 48 hours, Rudolph Agnew, the chairman, will be able to concentrate on the benefits to be gained from whoever it is he has persuaded to inject new equity into the company.

The fact that this new equity is contingent on TVS retaining its franchise speaks volumes for the health of the company. The full damage done to the company by MTM Entertainment cannot yet be calculated. Suffice to say that nearly three years after MTM was bought for £190 million, the latest provision means the company does not have the distributable reserves to pay a final dividend (5p).

With net assets hit, gearing is also set to rise from its year-end level of 31.6 per cent. Avoid.

Greenall Whitley

FOR a company that has recently undergone its biggest change of corporate direction in 229 years, Greenall Whitley is remarkably coy about the financial benefits of closing its breweries. Analysts believe, however, that savings of about £3 million to £4 million are possible this year. Operating profits from the public houses and brewing division during the six months to March 29 were up 17 per cent at £19.2 million, on 5 per cent lower volumes.

Group interim trading profits increased 10 per cent to £21.2 million, though reduced property profits held back the increase at the pre-tax line to less than 2 per cent. A higher tax charge meant that earnings were unchanged at 12.6p.

With the withdrawal from brewing completed, the company, to be renamed the Greenalls Group, must prove that the other half of the new strategy makes sense. The board intends to wait a few months before starting to buy the pubs it needs to become a national drinks retailer. With gearing of 25 per cent, Greenall is well placed to snap up bargains when other brewers begin disposing of pubs, as required by the monopolies commission, later in the year. Analysts believe the company will make about £66 million pre-tax profits this year, putting the shares on a prospective multiple of about ten. As long as sensible prices are paid for the new pubs, the shares look good value.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Kitson goes Dutch

ROGER Kitson, chairman and chief executive of Hill Samuel Investment Services in the days before the takeover by TSB, has joined the round of City comebacks. He takes up the reins today as chief executive of Aegon Investment Services, a new financial services group built from the shell of Regency Life. The deal marks the British debut for Aegon, a Dutch insurer and the ninth largest in Europe. "I got fed up with being retired," says Kitson, aged 54, who spent 24 years with Hill Samuel and sat on the board with Christopher Castleman, now chief executive of LIT Holdings. Aegon has £50 million for development and Kitson expects a sales force of 400 by the end of 1992.

Red 'no' day

CAPITALISM is alive in Russia - well, in the mind at least. A potential investor in the small soviet town of Dyu-

shambe recently wrote to Fleming Investment Trust Management, Britain's oldest and largest manager. It seems that his local stockbroker had recommended the firm's Japanese trust and he wanted to borrow £10,000 from Fleming to invest in the trust. "Let's do the first step in the opening of a great Russian market," he wrote optimistically. Sadly it was not to be as Fleming was unwilling to lend him the money, and Soviet citizens cannot get their hands on



foreign currency to invest in trusts abroad. So much for glamour.

James bond

PLANS by Arsenal Football Club to make Friday's launch of their new bond issue as lively as possible - and hence bring in some of the £20 million it needs to upgrade its seating facilities - had financial advisers stumped. At a loss for new ideas, David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman, turned to his family for advice. "Why don't you play *St Down* by James," said Sasha, his 14-year-old daughter. After all, the pop song seemed to sum up the message. Dein took her advice, the song was played at the press conference, and City observers rapidly sat up and took notice.

Dead reckoning

THE credit card war is really hotting up. A renewed Midland Bank Visa card was recently sent to a colleague's father-in-law - despite the fact that he died two years ago and his bank account was

subsequently closed. Back went the card, duly cut in half, with a letter explaining the situation. Midland has now written to the deceased, regretting his decision to close the account and offering him a Switch card instead. Oops!

Lost composer

MERCHANT bankers seeking new jobs may soon have strains of classical music to contend with. Or they will if dealing with Edward Clark, a banking headhunter, who is the self-appointed president of the UK Sibelius Society - formed to honour the Finnish composer. "Sibelius is one of the great twentieth century symphonists but he needs pushing," says Clark, managing director of the Whitney Group, who says many of his clients are fans. "We want to promote live performances of his works here," he adds. One convert is Roger Gifford, head of capital markets at Scandinavian Enskilde Bankers, and Clark hopes others will follow.

JON ASHWORTH

NEI wins £100m of new work

NEI, the power engineering arm of Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine group, has won a £100 million contract to build three electricity substations in Dubai. The order is the largest received by the company for almost a decade.

The substations will be manufactured by NEI Reyrolle at Hebbarra, on Tyne-side, where the work will help safeguard 2,000 jobs. Trans-formers for the substations will be supplied by NEI Peoples, of Edinburgh, where 500 people are employed.

The substations will form part of a high voltage transmission system being constructed in Dubai.

The contract is welcome because NEI Parsons, another of its operating companies in Newcastle, shed 630 jobs last autumn, after the suspension of a £75 million order for turbines for an Iraqi power station.

Work on the new order will start immediately. Commissioning is expected to be completed in early 1993.

ROSS TIERMAN

Industrial Correspondent

Russia chases hard currency Soviet platinum sales soar

THE Soviet Union's struggle to raise hard currency to pay for essential imports resulted in record sales of precious metals such as platinum, palladium and rhodium last year.

Johnson Matthey, the world's largest platinum refiner, revealed the sales on the same day President Gorbachev ordered yet another package of incentives to revive the Soviet Union's sagging industrial production.

The incentives, of which details remain sketchy, are intended to boost output of the basic industries such as gas, steel, mining and the railways, and follow the ending of a crippling nine-week coal strike and a further fall of 8 per cent in economic output in the first quarter of this year.

Johnson Matthey said it is likely that USSR stocks "were drawn down to meet market demand".

Sales were 27 per cent up on 1989 with palladium and rhodium shipments reaching 1.85 million ounces and 155,000 ounces respectively, compared with 1.65 million and 130,000. The Soviet Union is

the world's second biggest supplier of platinum and rhodium, after South Africa, and is the leading shipper of palladium.

The uncertain political climate in the Soviet Union, seen as a major factor behind

"The Soviet Union's drift into economic turmoil is causing concern on commodity markets"

the increase, also raised questions about the security of supply.

But the Soviet Union's drift into political and economic turmoil is causing concern on commodity markets worldwide because it is the world's largest buyer of grain, sugar, cocoa and coffee as well as a key supplier of gold, nickel and the other precious metals.

One Geneva grain analyst said recently: "The most critical problems likely to be faced by grain suppliers to the

Soviet Union are the breakdown in decision-making at the centre and a chronic shortage of foreign exchange."

The Russians also play a pivotal role in the sugar market, being a major purchaser in the free market and taking large quantities from Cuba under a bilateral agreement. Cuba could go critical soon, said one senior sugar industry source last week.

The lack of foreign exchange has almost halted imports of soluble coffee, which had been rising rapidly in comparison with traditional shipments of green coffee, analysts say.

Johnson Matthey said in its annual review that worldwide supplies of platinum should remain in moderate surplus this year apart from occasional periods of tight supply.

"After trading initially around \$400 an ounce, an improvement in the economic outlook should cause the price to rise towards \$450 during 1991."

Platinum was quoted in Europe yesterday at around \$389.50 an ounce.

GEORGE SIVELL

SIEMENS

Information for Siemens shareholders

Brisk demand from new German states

Economic conditions in international markets have become less favorable. Yet overall, Siemens recorded a substantial 15% increase in new orders during the first half of the current financial year as compared with the same period last year. Nearly half this growth was due to the integration of newly acquired companies. Worth noting was a shift in the focus of growth to the German market. Worldwide sales rose by 9% and income after taxes by 6%.

New orders

Siemens, comprising Siemens AG and its consolidated German and international companies, booked new orders totaling DM41.4 billion (1989/90: DM35.8 billion) during the period under review (1 October 1990 to 31 March 1991), an increase of 15%. Reflected in this total was a dramatic 30% upturn of German domestic orders. The Public Communication Networks, Power Generation (KWU), and Medical Engineering Groups all saw ordering activity that was well above average. Power Transmission and Distribution as well as Transportation Systems also benefited from the buoyant German market. Altogether, the operating groups received orders worth DM1.4 billion from the new German states, mainly for the expansion of their infrastructures. The appreciable weakening of

the economy in major markets throughout the world led to a stagnation of Siemens' international business. The recorded 6% increase to DM22.7 billion was due largely to the integration of further companies in the consolidated figures (including Siemens Nixdorf Informationssysteme AG and the Plessey operations acquired by Siemens).

	1/10/89 to 31/3/90	1/10/90 to 31/3/91	Change
DM billion			
New orders	35.8	41.4	+ 15%
German business	14.4	18.7	+ 30%
International business	21.4	22.7	+ 6%

Sales

Sales increased 9% during the period under review to DM33.1 billion (1989/90: DM30.4 billion). Sales growth lagged well behind that achieved by orders, mainly because of an unusual number of completed contract billings for major projects in the first half of the preceding year. German domestic sales (DM15.0 billion) and international sales (DM18.1 billion) both increased 9%. Public Communication Networks, Transportation Systems, and Industrial and Building Systems recorded particularly strong gains. Seven percentage points of sales growth was generated by newly consolidated companies.

	1/10/89 to 31/3/90	1/10/90 to 31/3/91	Change
DM billion			
Sales	30.4	33.1	+ 9%
German business	13.8	15.0	+ 9%
International business	16.6	18.1	+ 9%

Employees

The work force rose in the first half by a total of 35,000 or 9% to 407,000. This change resulted entirely from the expansion of the consolidated group of companies. In several operating groups an adjustment of the levels of employment was unavoidable. Personnel costs rose 14% to DM15.0 billion (1989/90: DM13.2 billion).

In thousands	30/9/90	31/3/91	Change
Employees	373	407	+ 9%
German operations	230	246	+ 7%
International operations	143	161	+ 13%

	1/10/89 to 31/3/90	1/10/90 to 31/3/91	Change
DM billion			
Personnel costs	13.2	15.0	+ 14%

Capital spending and net income

Capital spending declined by more than 30% to DM2.1 billion (1989/90: DM3.1 billion) compared with the same period last year. While only very minimal investments were made in 12 other companies, there was a slight increase in capital expenditure for property, plant and equipment. Net income after taxes rose 6%, from DM749 million in the first half of 1989/90 to DM793 million.

	1/10/89 to 31/3/90	1/10/90 to 31/3/91	Change
Capital expenditure and investments DM billion	3.1	2.1	- 32%
Net income after taxes DM million	749	793	+ 6%

unaudited accounts

Siemens AG, Berlin and Munich

BUSINESS LETTERS

Names and syndicates need 'safety reserves'

From H. N. A. Colthurst

Sir, I refer to Mr Fryn's article (May 2) casting doubts on the future advantages of unlimited liability for Lloyd's Names. In broad terms, I agree with him entirely; the limiting of liability would provide considerably more attraction for the very wealthy Names best able to "ride" underwriting cycles and would lessen perhaps the absurd predilection of American courts to penalize Lloyd's syndicates when awarding some damages under the "deepest pocket" syndrome.

I think that the supposed selling advantage provided by the concept of unlimited liability is a complete myth. Price and service tend to be questioned far more often, provided security is available from a properly capitalized insurer, whether unlimited or not. Since when did the unlimited security offered by a problem syndicate prove better than that available from a financially finite blue chip composite?

The introduction of some form of limited liability or market mutualisation should only be made in conjunction with yet more stringent solvency requirements in order to maintain overall strength of security. An increase in the ratio of underwriting capital to premium capacity would be a good thing; at the time of joining Lloyd's, a Name would be much better able to envisage the maximum potential downside and allocate a proportion of "high risk capital" accordingly.

In addition, such a change would not necessarily preclude the participation of smaller or working Names provided they can be allowed to underwrite smaller "lines" on individual syndicates without incurring a punitive minimum charge. Although at present working Names seem to be regarded as unwanted poor relations at a feast of parsimony, their continued participation needs to be encouraged as an important factor in the future success of the market.

I do wish, however, that at least one of the myriad of recent articles in the national press highlighting the problems of Lloyd's could have mentioned the difficulties encountered by many syndicates in agreeing proper IBNR (incurred but not reported) re-

serves with the Inland Revenue. These apply particularly to "old year" claims arising from pollution and asbestos, so often the source of major losses.

The incidence of these claims has increased dramatically over the past 15 years — yet the Inland Revenue, presumably with the acquiescence of the government, seems intent on penalizing Lloyd's to the delight of its composite or continental rivals by refusing to allow even a prudent element of "safety reserves", either at syndicate or Name level, unless every cent can be specifically accounted for.

That attitude is ridiculous and unreasonable; more important, it is grossly unfair on the Name accepting a syndicate's reinsurance to close. Incredibly, the two Wellington syndicates 406 and 448 actually had some of their past year reserves disallowed for tax purposes by the Inland Revenue when closing their 1987 accounts into 1988. This

year, they had to call an additional £100 million from 1988 Names to cover further deterioration. Presumably somewhere there lies a logical explanation. The problems of Lloyd's with the old years stem from under-reserving not over-reserving.

Few institutions can offer a record of overall historic profitability as excellent as Lloyd's — despite continuous harassment from its detractors. The next few years will be crucial to ensure its future after the fiasco of the past and the losses of the present. The weight of continental rivals will guarantee survival only of the fittest; but let Names at least be allowed to compete on level playing fields if the country wishes to preserve an institution unique to itself, a source directly or indirectly of over 80,000 jobs and often the City's single largest contributor to the balance of payments.

Yours faithfully,
H. N. A. COLTHURST,
Wandle Road, SW17.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Index	Call	Put	Index	Call	Put
100	30	30	100	30	30
110	30	30	110	30	30
120	30	30	120	30	30
130	30	30	130	30	30
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Board 'hypocrites' accept big rises

From T. D. Gourlay

Sir, With increasing frequency in these times of recession, company reports reveal that profits and earnings per share for 1990 are considerably lower in percentage terms than for 1989. Yet the earnings of chairmen and directors in 1990 were far higher in percentage terms than 1989. Also, their stock options have increased markedly. At the same time staff salaries and wages have risen by much smaller percentages than those of the board members.

Shareholders should not accept such anomalies. The voice of the small shareholder is seldom heard or heeded at company AGMs. Let the large and institutional shareholders speak up loudly and often to make the hypocrites feel uncomfortable as they shed their crocodile tears all the way to the bank with their huge "earnings".

Yours faithfully,

T. D. GOURLAY,

Wildshaw Cottage,

West Heath,

Limpfield, Surrey.

Gilt-Edged clichés

From F. D. Gardiner

Sir, In his article under the heading Gilt-Edged (May 7), your correspondent states: "The bottom line for most gilt players is probably that they expect a Tory victory."

What does it mean? Later on in the same article, he refers to Labour financing its budget deficits with "gilt issuance" rather than asset sales. How addictive are these fashionable clichés?

I am hopefully too disinterested to be in the business of addressing the issuance of number-crunching players or to take on board their perception or whatever... you know.

Yours faithfully,

F. D. GARDINER,

Pennsylvania Road,

Brenn,

Devon.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

BP signs deal

BRITISH Petroleum has signed a 50/50 joint venture exploration agreement with Turkey Petroleum Anonim Ortakligi, covering 76,000 sq km of the south eastern Black Sea. The area extends 12 miles off the north coast of Turkey to the median line with the Soviet Union.

ANZ Grindlays Trust (Jersey) Limited and

OLEC TRUSTEE LIMITED

have merged to form one of Jersey's leading specialist trust companies:

ANZ Grindlays Trust Corporation (Jersey) Limited

This new substantial Jersey based trust company has over 75 staff who provide a comprehensive range of specialist trust and offshore company administration services.

For further information on the services provided please contact the Managing Director, Ben Bendelow at ANZ Grindlays Trust Corporation (Jersey) Limited, P.O. Box 766, St Helier, Jersey. Channel Islands JE4 8ZZ, British Isles.

British Isles
Tel: 0534 35100
Fax: 0534 37600
Telex: 4192221

International
Tel: +44 534 35100
Fax: +44 534 37600
Telex: 4192221

ANZ Group
Private Banking

صكنا من الاجل

WALL STREET

[illegible]

STOCK MARKET

Government caution on rate cut sends prices tumbling

BOND and share prices nosedived as hopes of a cut in bank base rates this week suffered a setback.

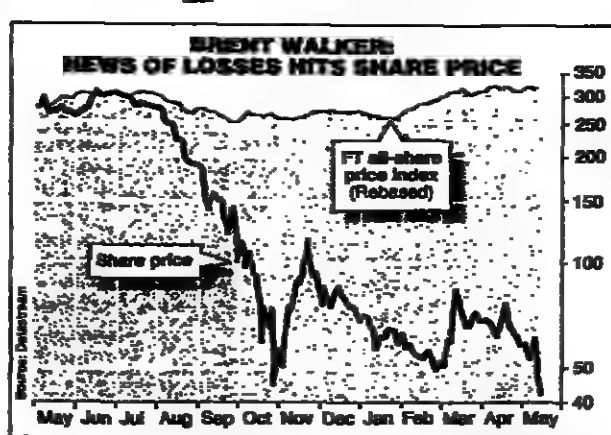
Last week's move by the Bank of England to dampen enthusiasm for cheaper money was backed by further cautious remarks by the government. Friday's 50-point fall on Wall Street set the scene in London as the third leg of the sharp-value account gap widened. Prices were marked sharply lower with fund managers anxiously awaiting this week's steady stream of economic statistics. Many of them take the view that the expected upturn in the economy is still some way off.

Turnover levels remained thin, with only 354.9 million shares traded. Prices closed near their worst of the day as the expected rally in New York failed to materialise. The FT-SE 100 index lost 37.7 at 2,486.6 while the FT index of 30 shares lost 31.9 at 1,942.6.

Government securities lost £½ at the longer end, reflecting the downturn of the American bond market.

South African mining shares remained nervous after the latest bout of township violence. There were falls for De Beers, £4 to £134, Vaal Reef, £18½ to £32½, Am Gold, \$5 to \$31½, E. Deegans, 15p to £21p, Freegold, 26p to 32p and RTZ, 5p to 54p.

Marks and Spencer, which announced job losses last week, fell 5p to 26p ahead of full-year figures today. These are expected to show a modest



previous year of £82 million. There will almost certainly be a drop in shareholders' funds and a fall in the value of assets.

TVS Entertainment, the independent television contractor, slipped 1p to 64p on news of losses and no dividend. The group reported a pre-tax deficit of £8.3 million for the full year, compared with a profit of £16.2 million for the previous 14 months. The group said the figure had been reached after making provisions totalling £25 million, including a £20.7 million write-off of MTM.

increase in pre-tax profits from £611 million to about £618 million. increase in half-year pre-tax profits of £24.1 million. Analysts had been forecasting

RET, the industrial services group, eased 1p to 179p. The group has finally sold its Biffa waste disposal division to small downturn.

The rest of the brewers was marked lower, although prices closed above their worst. A

British Telecom fell 3p to 370p. County NatWest WoodMe the stockbroker, has upgraded its earnings forecast for the next three years on the back of a lower tax charge. The shares attracted a buy and still trade at a discount ahead of the expected sale of the government's remaining holding.

Severn Trent Water for a total of £212 million. Severn Trent lost 1p at 279p. Last year it made an unsuccessful bid for the Caird Group and continues to hold a near 30 per cent stake in the shares. Dealers expect the stake in Caird, unchanged at 75p, to be sold soon.

Greenall Whitely, the hotel and public house retailing operation, eased 3p to 344p after announcing a marginal

The news took some of the shine off the other contractors, which have been attracting support in the run-up to the deadline for the new franchises. Anglia eased 2p to 190p and Scottish Television 12p to 701p. Carlton, which is bidding for one of the London franchises, fell 5p to 442p.

Insurance brokers drifted lower along with the rest of the market, despite some favourable remarks from Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, in its latest review of the insurance industry. Hoare prefers the insurance brokers and likes the look of Sedgwick Group. 2p lighter at 248p, and Hogg Group, 1p lower at 200p. Elsewhere, there were falls for Bradstock Group, 2p to 148p, Lloyd Thompson, 5p to 360p, Steel Barrill Jones, 3p to 292p, Sturge, 5p to 235p and Willis Corroon, 9p to 298p.

MICHAEL CLARK

NEDC discourages open buying abuse

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE National Economic Development Council is calling on companies to "shop" governments and public bodies that fail to abide by European Commission directives on open purchasing.

The council plans to assess the route by which abuses can be brought to the attention of the commission.

Sir John Cuckney, chairman of the council's European committee, said the working party, said he was convinced that some states would feel an "irresistible" urge to use purchasing policies to encourage

enough to merit formal complaints to the commission.

The council wants to ensure that companies based in the United Kingdom do not lose out in a rationalisation of the market which would result from more open markets. The working party aims to improve understanding between suppliers and buyers.

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES			
Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
100	100	100	100

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

[illegible]

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES		BONDS	
Aberdeen Inst	51	Lazardvest (108p)	50
Adelphi Resources	122	MMEC	24
Alberton Sm (100p)	122	MNI (20p)	26 1/2
Alliance Res	35-4	Metway Inc (34p)	10 1/2
Bramble Res (156p)	85-8	Secon Healthcare (135p)	78
Calix Corp (100p)	102	Smelter II	176-1
Orion Oil & Gas (100p)	102	Board Petroleum (225p)	101
ERF Income Trst	59	Triv Int Inc	41-1
ERF Inv Lvl 1 (50p)	48 1/2	Unicorp Int	172-1
East German Inv	111	Wgt The App	236-6
Eidos (100p)	60		
Enbancor	66	RIGHTS ISSUES	
Europe Energy	14	Alid Leds N/P	5 1/2 + 11
Graham Telecom	15	BIBA Go N/P	11
Headline Book	122	Bard (Wm) N/P	24 + 11
Highcroft Inv	156	abbey (J) N/P	17
Investigation (135p)	146-1	Kuritz N/P	5

TRADITIONAL OPTIC

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
July 7	July 24	Aug 8	Aug 19

Call options were issued on 18/5/91 ADT, Allied Lyons, Barstford Int, Setarware, Bula Resources, Morris West, Interlink Express, Kurick, Paintmakers Group, Premier, Ramer Facelife, Thames TV, Tushar, TV-int.

Pete Rogers.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright, or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Cash at last
1	Bredon PLC	Building Roads	
2	Shayne & Fisher	Building Roads	
3	Robinson T	Tobacco	
4	Harris & Penson	Foods	
5	Millar (P)	Industrials E-K	
6	JS Pathology	Industrials E-K	
7	Stable	Industrials E-K	
8	Swire Pacific A	Industrials S-Z	
9	Clarkson (H)	Transport	
10	Leeds	Textiles	
11	Jacob (H)	Transport	
12	Nichols (H) (Y)	Foods	
13	CI Group	Industrials A-D	
14	Mac 2	Electronics	
15	Chivalry	Leisure	
16	Goal Pet	Oil/Gas	
17	Volex	Electronics	
18	Pennington	Motors/Aircraft	
19	Hutchinson Whampoa	Industrials E-K	
20	Canal	Draperies	
21	Mind	Electronics	
22	TIP Europe	Transport	
23	Admiral	Electronics	
24	Medeva	Industrials L-R	
25	Smith Beech	Industrials S-Z	
26	Yorkshire Water	Water	
27	Birdale	Paper/Print/Adv	
28	Halsford (James)	Chemicals/Plas	
29	Falcon Group	Industrials E-K	
30	Independent	Newspapers/Pub	
31	CIA Gp	Paper/Print/Adv	
32	Marshall	Building Roads	
33	Island Power	Foods	
34	Uman	Oil/Gas	
35	Compass Gp	Leisure	
36	Coca (Wm)	Industrials A-D	
37	Vale Catta	Chemicals/Plas	
38	Sand (Wm)	Industrials A-D	
39	Courts Freshers	Draperies	
40	Coates	Industrials A-D	
41	Brown (N)	Draperies	
42	Computer People	Electronics	
43	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

Six readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday, including two living in the same road, Mr Julian Bird and Mr A. J. Coley, of Wilmslow, Cheshire, each won £1,000, as did Mrs Anne Brook, of Warrington, Wiltshire; Mr Dennis Johnson, of Brighton, West Sussex; Mr John Dunsdon, of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire; and Mrs J. Woolsey, of Market Drayton, Shropshire.

BRITISH FUNDS

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3	Robinson T	Tobacco	
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7	Stable	Industrials E-K	
8	Swire Pacific A	Industrials S-Z	
9	Clarkson (H)	Transport	
10	Leeds	Textiles	
11	Jacob (H)	Transport	
12	Nichols (H) (Y)	Foods	
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14	Mac 2	Electronics	
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18	Pennington	Motors/Aircraft	
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26	Yorkshire Water	Water	
27	Birdale	Paper/Print/Adv	
28	Halsford (James)	Chemicals/Plas	
29	Falcon Group	Industrials E-K	
30	Independent	Newspapers/Pub	
31	CIA Gp	Paper/Print/Adv	
32	Marshall	Building Roads	
33	Island Power	Foods	
34	Uman	Oil/Gas	
35	Compass Gp	Leisure	
36	Coca (Wm)	Industrials A-D	
37	Vale Catta	Chemicals/Plas	
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Sharp falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin April 29. Dealings end May 17. \$Contango day May 20. Settlement day May 28.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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#BREWERIES			
50	481	482	284
483	484	485	43
486	487	488	11
489	490	491	43
492	493	494	11
495	496	497	11
498	499	500	28
501	502	503	11
504	505	506	11
507	508	509	11
510	511	512	11
513	514	515	11
516	517	518	11
519	520	521	11
522	523	524	11
525	526	527	11
528	529	530	11
531	532	533	11
534	535	536	11
537	538	539	11
540	541	542	11
543	544	545	11
546	547	548	11
549	550	551	11
552	553	554	11
555	556	557	11
558	559	560	11
561	562	563	11
564	565	566	11
567	568	569	11
570	571	572	11
573	574	575	11
576	577	578	11
579	580	581	11
582	583	584	11
585	586	587	11
588	589	590	11
591	592	593	11
594	595	596	11
597	598	599	11
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603	604	605	11
606	607	608	11
609	610	611	11
612	613	614	11
615	616	617	11
618	619	620	11
621	622	623	11
624	625	626	11
627	628	629	11
630	631	632	11
633	634	635	11
636	637	638	11
639	640	641	11
642	643	644	11
645	646	647	11
648	649	650	11
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669	670	671	11
672	673	674	11
675	676	677	11
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681	682	683	11
684	685	686	11
687	688	689	11
690	691	692	11
693	694	695	11
696	697	698	11
699	700	701	11
702	703	704	11
705	706	707	11
708	709	710	11
711	712	713	11
714	715	716	11
717	718	719	11
720	721	722	11
723	724	725	11
726	727	728	11
729	730	731	11
732	733	734	11
735	736	737	11
738	739	740	11
741	742	743	11
744	745	746	11
747	748	749	11
750	751	752	11
753	754	755	11
756	757	758	11
759	760	761	11
762	763	764	11
765	766	767	11
768	769	770	11
771	772	773	11
774	775	776	11
777	778	779	11
780	781	782	11
783	784	785	11
786	787	788	11
789	790	791	11
792	793	794	11
795	796	797	11
798	799	800	11
801	802	803	11
804	805	806	11
807	808	809	11
810	811	812	11
813	814	815	11
816	817	818	11
819	820	821	11
822	823	824	11
825	826	827	11
828	829	830	11
831	832	833	11
834	835	836	11
837	838	839	11
840	841	842	11
843	844	845	11
846	847	848	11
849	850	851	11
852	853	854	11
855	856	857	11
858	859	860	11
861	862	863	11
864	865	866	11
867	868	869	11
870	871	872	11
873	874	875	11
876	877	878	11
879	880	881	11
882	883	884	11
885	886	887	11
888	889	890	11
891	892	893	11
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Frances Gibb talks to the Lord Chancellor about his latest controversial reforms

Mackay braces for fight over legal aid

The Lord Chancellor is gearing up for a fresh battle with the legal profession. The fight over lawyers' restrictive practices may not be over, but as far as the government is concerned, it is on another burner: the profession will be wrangling over advocacy rights in a new forum, the consultative machinery set up by the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 to sort out the squabble once and for all.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern has turned, therefore, to another bone of contention. He plans the biggest shake-up in the civil legal aid scheme since it was set up 40 years ago, and proposals will be published later this month.

The battle-ground is quite different this time. Lawyers' restrictive practices are a soft target, and whatever opposition the government's reforms aroused among judges and the Bar, Lord Mackay could be assured of the support of the consumer lobby and the public.

This time, however, things are less clear cut. In his balance, the Lord Chancellor has the backing of the taxpayers, who wish to see value for money as legal aid soars. The bill is fast approaching £750 million every year. He is determined to press his argument on civil legal aid. Lawyers, too, have a difficult public relations exercise as they argue the moral principles of legal aid while deflecting charges of self-interest. Yet the lawyers are putting forward one forceful case: that of the need to retain access to justice. Lord Mackay's main proposals have been floated, and it is on restricting access to justice that they are most vulnerable to attack. The Bar calls them "disastrous". The Law Society says it is "hard to imagine a greater disincentive to litigation".

The legal aid review was set up amid widely publicised research that about 15 million people had become ineligible for legal aid. The scheme no longer fulfils its original purpose: to ensure those of modest means have the same access to the law as the rich. However, research shows far fewer people qualify for legal aid, and there is the growing problem of the "middle income group", who cannot afford to litigate but do not qualify for public funds.

At the core of the proposed reform is the abolition of means-tested legal aid. Instead, all but the poorest would have to contribute up to a fixed level before they could apply for legal aid. The level has yet to be set but it could be £2,500 to £3,000.

Lord Mackay is bullish. He combines the two-policeman approach — one soft, one tough. He is at once forceful in defending the proposals while insisting there could be more than one round of consultation and that, in the words of his colleague, "nothing is ruled in, nothing is ruled out".

The idea of legal aid as a safety net means, he says, that only people who believe in the merits of their claim to the extent they will contribute to their legal costs, will qualify.

"Should the taxpayer take the risk of litigation, if I am not prepared to take it myself, in respect of money I have?" Lord Mackay says. "If a person is not willing to spend what he or she can afford, why should you and I spend money on it?" Yet he concedes that on the qualifying figure nothing is yet concluded. Nor is there any conclusion on the Law Society's proposals for a flexible upper income limit, so that those above the limit could apply for legal aid, on payment of an extra contribution, if the case costs more than they can afford. In the meantime, Lord Mackay has united the profession, which is arguing with one voice that his plans will cut people out of the courts. Although in theory all citizens would qualify for legal aid, the requirement to spend their own savings before they knew if they qualified would act as a huge disincentive to

'I do not think women would like to get a post on the basis they are there just because they are women.'



Into the arena: Mackay is working on more reforms but wants to avoid offending the judges

litigation, the lawyers say. The outcome is unpredictable. However, Lord Mackay can afford to be relaxed. The debate is certain to be lengthy. He will counter lawyers' claims that large numbers of them are dropping legal aid work with rival statistics showing the big take-up by the public in legal aid. At the same time the lawyers will be pushing for better legal aid pay — and in particular for a pay review body such as announced for teachers — if legal aid is not to be a second-class service. Then after civil legal aid, there is the review of family legal aid, and then of criminal.

In the background, however, are the rumblings of another dispute in which Lord Mackay could have a harder job to sustain his case. The Law Society has opened a campaign to reform the way in which judges are chosen, and the Bar endorses many of the proposals. Here, Lord Mackay is giving little ground.

He rejects the idea of a judicial appointments body to advise him on selection, emphasising the need for an individual to retain personal responsibility for making the appointments. He does not accept that the system could be made more public, depending as it does on private

references. "It is as open as I can make it," he says. Despite his concern about the shortage of women on the bench, or ethnic minority group candidates, he rejects in the strongest terms the notion of a "fast track" for either of these groups that would allow them to avoid spending the usual number of years in part-time judicial appointments first.

"It is degrading and patronising to women to say one wants to change the standard so that a certain number of them go through on to the bench," he says.

"I do not think that is at all right and I do not think women would like to get a post on the basis they are there just because they are women even though they are not really qualified. That is the essence of a quota system."

He concedes, however, that the subject of whether solicitors who cannot spare the time to do part-time judicial work should be allowed to do some other kind of probationary period will be considered. He also intends to place more emphasis on personal application by lawyers for judicial posts "to encourage them and improve the follow-up of those applications". In time, he argues, the numbers of women and ethnic minority judges will improve.

Sold or selling out on Sunday trading?

Since the United Kingdom joined the European Community in 1973, even the Fourth Commandment — "remember to keep the Sabbath day holy" — has had to give way to EC law. This week, the House of Lords is hearing argument on whether the law on Sunday trading is in breach of the Treaty of Rome.

The Shops Act of 1950 makes it an offence for traders to serve customers on a Sunday, but there are several exceptions that might have been designed to promote the public interest. The fifth schedule to the act allows for the sale on a Sunday of, among other essentials, "cooked or partly cooked tripe, smokers' requisites, and photographs for passports".

Community law is said to be relevant because Article 30 of the Treaty of Rome prohibits "quantitative restrictions on imports and all measures having equivalent effect", unless (under Article 36) they can be justified on grounds of public morality, public policy or public security. The issue for the Lords is whether the Sunday trading laws infringe these provisions because enforcing the 1950 act causes a net fall in turnover, including sales of goods imported from other member states. If the statute does infringe EC law, then the relevant provisions are ineffective. The case arises because two local authorities, Stoke-on-Trent and Norwich, sought injunctions to stop B&Q home improvement stores from opening on Sundays in breach of the 1950 act. B&Q's defence is that it has a right to trade because the act contravenes EC law.

The application of EC law to the legislation has already been the subject of one decision by the European Court of Justice. In November 1989, the court pronounced that Article 30 "does not apply to national rules prohibiting retailers from opening their premises on Sunday where the restrictive effects on Community trade which may result therefrom do not exceed the effects intrinsic to rules of that kind".

Both sides claimed victory. Not for the first time, and probably not the last time, the court gave a Delphic answer to a simple question. English judges may make decisions that disappoint or upset litigants, but at least they let us know if we have won or lost. European Court judges give one judgment, with no concurring or dissenting opinions, so the text is often an unhappy compromise between rival tendencies, with conflicts papered over by ambiguity.

Last July, in the B&Q case, Mr Justice Hoffman was asked to interpret the European Court decision. He rejected the suggestion that EC law required the court "to apply its own opinion of the importance of ensuring that shopworkers do

not have to work on Sundays and weigh that against its opinion of the importance of selling more Dutch bulbs or Italian furniture". The duty of the court, he concluded, is only to enquire whether the policy decision of Parliament is one that a reasonable legislature could adopt. In his opinion it was.

More recently, the case for B&Q was seriously undermined by another European Court decision. In February, the court held that restrictions on Sunday trading in France and Belgium did not contravene Article 30. The court said member states had to arrange working hours so as to accord with "national socio-cultural characteristics".

The Lords are unlikely to allow B&Q's appeal from the judgment of Mr Justice Hoffman. B&Q may seek another reference to the European Court, but the issues of principle seem already to have been decided. If the appeal is dismissed, local authorities will more easily obtain injunctions to stop Sunday trading. Magistrates' courts will no longer have the pleasure of regular visits from what Mr Justice Hoffman described as a "troupe of experts touring the country giving their views" on the social and economic consequences of the Shops Act. And many lawyers will have to look for other gainful employment. However, dismissal of the appeal will not amount to judicial endorsement of the Sunday trading laws. As Mr Justice Hoffman said, the essential question in the litigation is simply one of jurisdiction: "Who is to decide whether shops should be allowed to open on Sundays? Is it to be Parliament or this court?"

Many politicians sympathetic to reform would welcome judicial assistance in resolving this problem. However, the courts are unlikely to assist.

Nothing said in the House of Lords is likely to cast doubt on the belief firmly held by adherents of all faiths and of none: that the Sunday trading laws are an arbitrary and increasingly anachronistic set of restrictions in a multi-cultural society. Do we really wish to have Parliament specify that Sunday trade is permitted in "flowers, fruit and vegetables (including mushrooms) other than tinned or bottled fruit or vegetables"?

Now that hope of judges amending the law has faded, Parliament should focus on the need to replace the present scheme by protection of employees, and potential employees, who do not wish to work on Sundays, and freedom for the rest of us to buy and sell if we please.

● The author is a barrister and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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Hidden home loan charges

A SOLICITOR came under fire last year for failing to inform his client that her building society was going to charge her interest after her mortgage had been repaid. Bristol Law Society has looked into the issue and found that 50 per cent of building societies do just this to their borrowers. The law society is particularly concerned about the practice of charging interest to the end of the month, whatever point in the month the mortgage is repaid. This means, for example, that if the lender receives the money on May 1, the borrower is charged interest to May 31. The Bristol Law Society is now seeking to persuade all lenders to charge interest only to the date of repayment as part of a package of reforms. Borrowers should also be given a clear statement of how the sum claimed is calculated, it says.

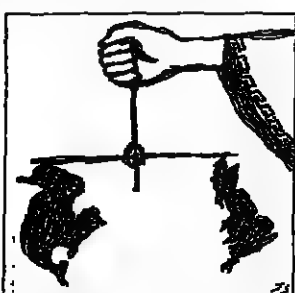
In a twist

QUALITY management has become a key issue among law firms and their governing body, the Law Society. But even as the society prepares to release its guide "Quality: A Briefing for Solicitors", which discusses the application of the BS 5750 code of quality management to solicitors, its own quality controls seem to be in question. Chris Bunting, the new marketing manager of the City law firm D.J. Freeman, was a member of the working party set up by the

INS AND OUTS

society to review the issue, but he is not a happy man. In particular, he has not seen the final document which he helped to draft, even though it has been widely distributed since it was published last February. "I await it with bated breath," he says. Mr Bunting also thought there would be a meeting to discuss the final document before it went out. "The document has been circulated with my name on it and I would be grateful for the opportunity to express my views." The Law Society, however, says it has circulated the document to all the members of the working party. Perhaps it should apply for a BS 5750 of its own.

A step ahead



THE debate over multi-national partnerships is in full swing, with the rules permitting English lawyers to be in partnership with foreign lawyers scheduled to be in place by the end of the year. Meanwhile, one law firm, Watson Farley & Williams, is showing how it can be done without waiting for the official go-ahead. The firm is busy

building its international partnership in New York which started with the absorption of a group of American lawyers from a New York firm last year. The office now has 19 lawyers, 16 of them American. It has just added another, Thatcher A. Stone, a specialist in aircraft finance, who joins from the New York firm Winthrop Stimson Putnam & Roberts.

Wills campaign

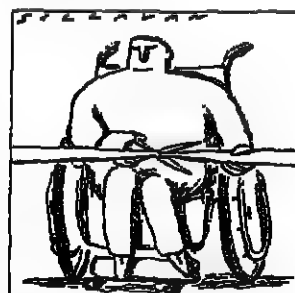
CHARLES Barker has been appointed by the Law Society to launch a £200,000 public relations campaign to encourage people to make wills. "Only one in four adults in Britain has a will," says Sue Stapely, at the society. The reasons for not having one "vary from superstition that making a will is tempting fate, to the belief that partners and family will automatically inherit everything, which is often not the case".

Law breakers?

IN THESE troubled economic times, surveyors may unwittingly be breaking the law, according to John Verrill, a partner with London firm Lawrence Graham. He says chartered surveyors without insolvency practitioners' licences are often appointed as receivers of businesses which have only one asset, their property. When they dispose of that property, they may be committing an offence if there is a floating charge secured by a lender on the property. In those cases, the receiver is automatically classed as an

administrative receiver and an insolvency practitioner. But, under the Insolvency Act 1986, anyone who acts as an insolvency practitioner must have a licence and unlicensed surveyors in that position may be fined or imprisoned and lose their professional indemnity insurance.

Safety first



THE environment department is publishing new building regulations this autumn for introduction in 1992. Although officials are still ploughing through responses to the consultation document, one group of people who look likely to benefit are those with disabilities. Under current rules, new shops and offices must be designed to be completely accessible to those with disabilities. The department is proposing to extend this rule to cover all public buildings, educational establishments and factories — at present only the main entrance door need be accessible. There is also a proposal to extend the definition of disability to include sight and hearing impairment so that all new buildings would have to be fitted with textured surfaces and specially adapted lift indicators.

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Programmed for image problems

If solicitors want to find out why they are so distrusted by the public, they need look no further than their television screens. The recent series *Kinsey*, for example, is typical in the way in which it projects the legal profession as greedy, inefficient and duplicitous.

So there is a nice irony in the way that the Independent Television Association is running Advertising for Solicitors seminars to mobilise support for an institutional television campaign on solicitors' services.

Having blackened the reputation of the profession for years, the television industry is adding insult to injury by asking solicitors to donate a hefty sum to have it cleaned up.

The response by solicitors to this call to arms is, not surprisingly, lukewarm. For example, at the first ITV seminar, held in Cambridge a fortnight ago, just four solicitors turned up to hear Kate Hampton, of ITV's business development unit, make her pitch. "It is a bit disappointing," conceded ITV's marketing advisers. "We had been expecting six."

The response was the same at a London seminar held last week. According to Paul Jaffa, of London solicitors Nicholson Graham & Jones, there was an astonishingly low turnout. He says

LEGAL BRIEF

After years of blackening the legal profession, television is leading the call for an industry facelift, Edward Fennell says

No leading firms were represented and, other than himself, there was nobody with any great responsibility for marketing. "There were just a few sole practitioners and one or two smaller firms there but I was surprised it was all so low key," he says.

This bears out the response to a recent Law Society survey of firms' views on the campaign. Although the full results are yet to be released, by the end of March less than a fifth of firms had responded, and opinion was sharply divided. Forty-eight per cent were against such a campaign.

ITV has made much of the fact that public opinion is shaped by bad news rather than good news.

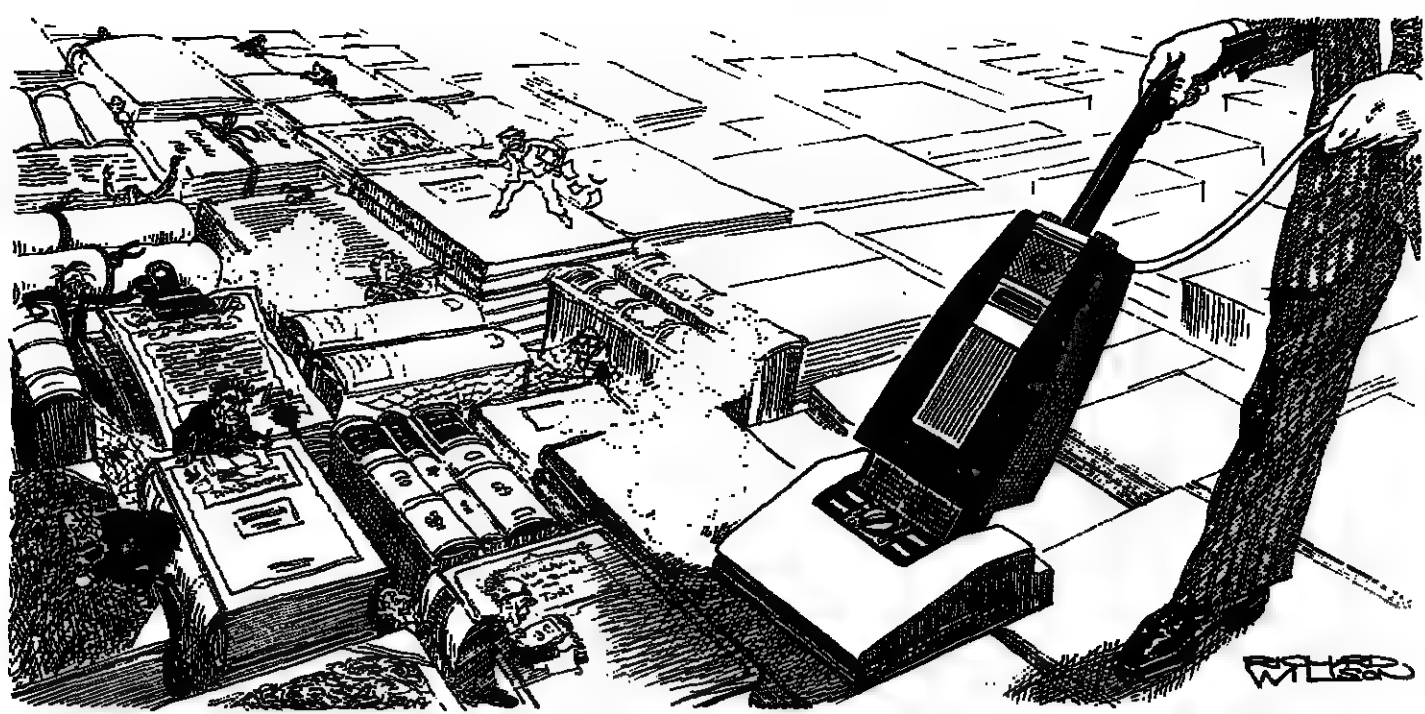
In addition, ITV makes the curious statement that "few people have had direct experience of using a solicitor". Given the amount of house-buying and the number of divorces, that claim is hard to substantiate. Many adults have direct contact with solicitors and can back their complaints with personal experience.

A series of street interviews collected by ITV revealed that the average man or woman believed solicitors to be expensive, unfriendly and slow, with, worst of all, "18th century airs and graces". The public, it seems, would cross the threshold of a solicitor's office with as much enthusiasm as entering a convention of Mafia hit men, and books such as Michael Joseph's *The Great Conveyancing Fraud* have merely reinforced the popular (or unpopular) image.

So there is little question that something must be done to remedy the public's disenchantment with solicitors.

ITV's pitch is simple. With the ending of the conveyancing monopoly, the solicitors' very livelihood is now at risk. To preserve their market, solicitors must promote themselves more vigorously as all-round legal consultants and present themselves as being both friendly and cost-effective.

To add to the battles on the high



street, there are growing threats from other professions, particularly in the areas of business and property law. The accountant, for example, will continue to gnaw away at the contested territories in taxation and the competition with barristers is likely to hot up all round.

There were signs of this at a series of presentations on Direct Professional Access (DPA), organised last month by the marketing agency Nexus. Now that the traditional demarcation lines have been broken down, professions such as accountants and surveyors will be able, in certain circumstances, to bypass solicitors and go

direct to the Bar. Those keen to exploit the idea argue that solicitors are largely unnecessary, acting, at best, as dead letterboxes for communication between barrister and client. In reply, solicitors claim that they act as vital filters selecting the best advocate and supporting the action with research and specialist advice.

At the Nexus seminar Saleem Shamash, of the surveying firm Drivers Jones, argued that DPA offered good opportunities for barristers but that chambers needed to gear up to take better advantage of it. In their publicity

and presentations, and the way their clerks operated, barristers would have to become more client-orientated.

A similar line was taken by Philip Hardman, of the accountants Grant Thornton. To capitalise on this opening, Mr Hardman said barristers must be more flexible and, for example, be prepared to go out and meet their clients where they worked. In other words, barristers should become more like accountants.

That may send shivers down the spines of old-school barristers but if such advice is taken up solicitors really will have their backs against the wall. Bundled out of con-

veyancing on the high street, and sniped at by barristers through DPA, they would need to repack age themselves before it is too late.

How can they do this? M Hampton at ITV concedes that one of the difficulties she faces is that solicitors find it difficult to envisage a campaign that would make them look cuddly and friendly.

Therefore, although she sincerely wants to help them, she will not twist their arms. In any case she says, she has another profession in her sights. She is about to meet the accountants to talk about a television advertising campaign for them.

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Negotiating an Offer

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As recruitment consultants, we have been negotiating offers of employment for over 15 years. The problems become familiar to us—and the solutions too, we hope. Happily, most candidates do not find themselves changing jobs too often, and are unaccustomed to negotiating terms of employment on their own behalf. The most important contribution we can make, after effecting the introduction, is to act as middlemen in helping to get the right kind of offer both made and accepted.

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Queen's Bench Division

Law Report May 14 1991

Queen's Bench Division

Plaintiffs' cut-off date proposed in tranquilliser claims

A. R. and Others v John Wyeth & Brother Ltd and Others
Before Mr Justice Ian Kennedy (Judgment May 7)

A cut-off date in a multiple claim was not fatal to other potential plaintiffs making a claim but they should bear in mind that the Limitation Act 1980 still applied and could extinguish their claims.

Mr Justice Ian Kennedy so held in a reserved judgment given in chambers in the Queen's Bench Division and reported with his Lordship's permission in adjourning summons brought by the parties in the bezodolizapine litigation.

Mr Robert Webb, QC, Mr Oliver Thorold, QC, Mr Lynagh and Mr Andrew Hillier for the plaintiffs, Mr Michael Spencer, QC, for the first defendants, John Wyeth & Brother Ltd, Mr Jonathan Playford, QC, Mr Andrew Prynne and Mr Charles A. W. Gibson for the second defendants, Roche Products Ltd, Mr David Latham QC and Mr Philip Havers for the interveners, Mr Roger Bell, QC and Miss Sally Smith for the health authorities, Miss Alison Foster for the Department of Health, Mr Nigel Pitt for the Legal Aid Board.

MR JUSTICE IAN KENNEDY said that a consideration which was particularly applicable in the present litigation was that it was only by a substantial number of plaintiffs standing together that their claims had those reasonable prospects of success which were prerequisites to the grant of legal aid.

The present scheme had been structured to assist both claimants who were legally aided and

those who were not, for the latter were committed to risk only their own proportionate share of the total costs of the scheme.

Ideally scheme litigation would carry together in one group all claimants making the same or similar claims against a particular manufacturer or, as here, a group of manufacturers.

In practice that was unattainable and a time came when doing justice between the parties required that the doors of the scheme be closed so that an ascertained body of claimants became defined, lead cases were chosen to illustrate particular points and that body of cases went forward towards trial.

The effect of his Lordship imposing a cut-off date was not to bar a claimant's right but was only that a claimant might be too late to join the group of claimants to which the scheme applied. It might be that there would be a second group to which late claimants might gain admittance, but of necessity the cases within the present group would be heard and determined first.

However, the danger his Lordship wished to stress was that the Limitation Act 1980 could extinguish a claimant's right and bar him altogether.

Parliament had provided that claims for damages for personal injuries had to be brought within three years from the accrual of the cause of action which presently meant from the time a claimant suffered material damage from ingesting the particular drug.

Time was passing and it was imperative that potential claimants who wished to be considered as serious claimants should consult solicitors forthwith. It

was not possible for potential claimants to wait and see the outcome of the scheme litigation and only then, if the scheme plaintiffs succeeded, to advance their own claim. Such inaction would effectively be fatal.

So far as the question of whether the time was ripe for the present scheme to be closed was concerned, his Lordship considered that the best course was to move towards imposing a cut-off date some time in the late summer.

That part of the summons would be adjourned until June 28, by which time it would be possible to see whether the applications for certificates were continuing to come in at the rate at which they were at the beginning of this month. 40 a working day, or whether there was any tailing off which would suggest that a short deferral of the cut-off date would be beneficial.

His Lordship's present view was that with 1,500 established plaintiffs, and perhaps nearer 2,000 by the end of the summer,

one would shortly find a sufficiently representative sample of the whole body of potential claimants that one might be reasonably confident that lead cases could be selected which would effectively dispose of the entirety of the litigation so far as the liability of the manufacturers was concerned.

His Lordship's present intention was to impose a date on or about September 15.

His Lordship had two cautions for those drafting individual statements of claim.

1 It had been the practice of some draftsmen simply to state that they relied upon the entirety of the master statement of claim.

That they should do so in relation to the matters of research and the allegations upon which liability was said to rest was appropriate, and was indeed the very reason for a master statement of claim, but it was inappropriate where it came to allegations of personal injuries which that particular plaintiff had suffered.

There were different ways in which individual applications could be affected and it was essential that the individual statements of claim should make it clear what that particular plaintiff's case was.

It was not sufficient to rely upon the accompanying medical report alone, the plaintiff's case had to be identified: see Order 18, rule 12(1)(c) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

In all the examples his Lordship had seen, where a plaintiff sought to have the limitation period extended, there was a common form of pleading. That was most unsatisfactory; while alternatives were always permissible, blanket pleading did nothing to clarify the case.

In particular, practitioners should be alive to the risk that if they pleaded as a matter of form that their client did not appreciate that his condition was serious they might not be in much position to complain if that statement was taken at its face value.

So far as those cases where there had been default in serving the statement of claim within the time limits were concerned, or where the statement of claim had not been accompanied by all the documents which it was directed should accompany it, both manufacturer defendants had made it clear that they would consider those cases where there was good reason for the delay.

They had not sought "unless orders" in every case of default but had written inviting explanations. Where they had received such explanations and were satisfied by them, they had allowed appropriate extensions. In other cases there might have to be a hearing, and summonses of that type should be returnable before Master Creightmore.

There were, however, many individual plaintiffs, solicitors who had offered no more than a formal acknowledgement or none at all: that was quite unacceptable and it was his Lordship's intention to make "unless orders" in all such cases when the summons was returned on June 28.

His Lordship would assume that where no explanation had been given it was because there was no satisfactory explanation.

Solicitors: plaintiff steering committee - Pannone Napier, Sheffield, Freeth Cartwright, Nottingham, Gepp & Sons, Chelmsford, Hay & Kilner, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nelson & Co, Leeds and Potter Butler & Lyons; McKenna & Co; Davies Arnold Cooper; Hemphills; Hill Dickinson; Davis Campbell, Liverpool; Solicitor, Department of Health; Solicitor, Legal Aid Board.

Defective houses notice

Regina v Thurrock Borough Council, Ex parte Wellham
Before Mr Justice Kennedy (Judgment April 25)

Only one notice of determination was required under Part XVI of the Housing Act 1985 when it was determined by a local housing authority to provide assistance to owners of defective premises by reinstatement or repair and a change in the circumstances of the applicant did not require a further notice of determination.

Mr Justice Kennedy so held in the Queen's Bench Division when refusing the applicants, Joseph Robert Wellham and Doreen Helen Wellham, judicial review of the decision of Thurrock Borough Council on March 21, 1990 to refuse their application for assistance by way of repair instead of by way of reinstatement as determined by the council on May 25, 1989.

Mr Bernard Devlin for the applicants, Mr John Cavanagh for the council.

MR JUSTICE KENNEDY said that Part XVI of the 1985 Act was enacted to provide assistance to owners of defective housing.

It was clear that time limits were contemplated in section 536 dealing with the question of eligibility for assistance. The determination that the applicants were eligible had been made in 1985.

If the conditions of section 538 were met then a reinstatement grant was made, otherwise

it was a matter of repurchase: see section 537(3). Even if section 538 conditions were met the local authority could proceed by repurchase if they considered it unreasonable for the applicant to wait for an undue period once the decision had been taken: see section 537(2).

The council submitted that the whole scheme envisaged one notice of determination and one only. After the applicant had one notice applied to him he could not expect to get another determination.

The applicant contended that there was no such restriction and that circumstances could arise in which a new determination could properly be made. His Lordship said that everything about the scheme of action went on the basis that there was only one determination and was intended for a relatively short timescale. If the applicant were dissatisfied they section 572 provided for a right of appeal to the county court.

It was possible that a local authority might agree that a situation had so changed that they would agree to change the nature of the action proposed but there was no provision for a fresh notice of determination.

Here the decision had been taken in 1989. If the applicants had wanted to change it they should have gone to the county court or applied for judicial review shortly afterwards.

Solicitors: Sackvilles, Horncastle; Mr Steven Wilson, Thurrock.

Company charge registration

Exeter Trust Ltd v Scroesways Ltd

Where the time for registration of a charge against a company under the Companies Act 1985 was extended notwithstanding the imminence of liquidation, the order made should provide liberty for the company to apply to discharge the order within a specified period after a winding-up becoming effective on or before a specified date.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Sir Roger

Ormerod) so observed on May 8 in upholding an appeal by Exeter Trust Ltd against an order of Judge Mickenham that the charges register be rectified in favour of Scroesways Ltd, by then in liquidation.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said the standard practice in London in the absence of evidence from a director or the secretary of the company that liquidation was not imminent was to make an order in the form laid down in *Re L. H. Charles & Co Ltd* ([1935] WN

15) and to be found in *Aitons Court Forms* (2nd edition, volume 9 (1987 issue)) Table 11 (pp99-100) and Forms 166 and 168 (pp305-307).

The practice in district and county court registries should be brought into line with the practice in London. Had that practice been followed in the present case, the order would have been drawn in the correct form, even if there had been no affidavit from the company making it clear that a liquidation was indeed imminent.

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This is a genuine opportunity to enjoy partnership in a highly regarded practice, and interested candidates should, in the first instance, contact Anna Ponton on 071 238 8000 or write to her enclosing a career resume at the address below quoting ref B4901.

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Informal enquiries may be made to Diana Tribe (Director of Studies) on (0707) 279412.

Closing date for applications: Friday 31st May 1991. Proposed date for interviews: Monday 17th June 1991.

Further details and an application form may be obtained from the Personnel Department, Hatfield Polytechnic, College Lane, Hatfield, Herts AL10 9AB or telephone Hatfield (0707) 279802.

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For further information please contact **Adrian Fox** on 071-405 6062 (071-625 9417 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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For further details contact Mandy Browne, Michael Turner, Anna Nicholas or Marc Cottrell. Tel (071) 583 0073 (Day) or (081) 570 1314 (Evenings & Weekends).

16-18 New Bridge Street, London EC4V 6AU. Or fax your details on (071) 583 1256.

For details of local positions please contact Helen Pearson on (071) 583 0073. Fax (071) 353 3988.

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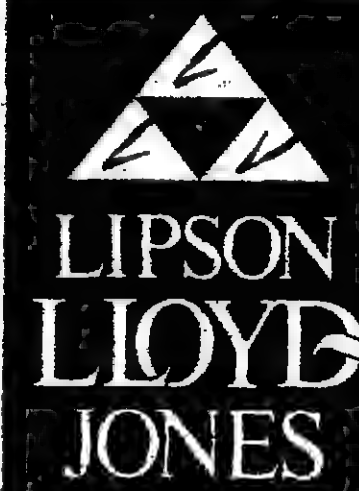
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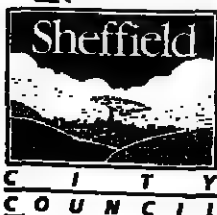
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Application forms returnable by Wednesday, 5th June, 1991 are available from the Personnel Office, Department of Health and Consumer Services, Town Hall Chambers, 1 Bakers Pool, Sheffield S1 1EN. Tel No. (0742) 794829.



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Informal enquiries may be made to Professor Roger Cottrell on 071-975 5142.

Salary will be on a scale between £13,166 - £24,078 inclusive, (currently under review), depending on age and experience.

For further details and on application form please telephone 071-975 5171 (24 hour answering machine) quoting reference 91/33.

Completed applications should be returned by 3 June 1991 to the Recruitment Co-ordinator, Queen Mary & Westfield College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS.

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السنة الأولى

Step to the natural beat

Three miles south of the bustling town of Skegness lies the Gibraltar Point National Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and an important staging post for bird migration. Working here, however, is not the pressure-free rural idyll one might think, for wardens have to be multi-talented.

The reserve, an area of shore, saltmarsh and sand dunes, is managed by the Lincolnshire and South Humberside Trust for Nature Conservation, and Carl Hawke is the warden. The reserve has a visitor centre giving information about plants and animals, and the coastal guard station is now a residential field station where students and adult education groups can study.

About half of Mr Hawke's duties involve administering the 25-bed field station - taking bookings, liaising with catering staff, attending meetings and overseeing building maintenance. The other half is reserve management - looking after 1,100 acres of varied habitat attracting 200,000 visitors a year, setting up guided walks and maintaining footpaths and fences. "It requires active management," he says.

Variety is a big factor in job satisfaction. Mr Hawke conducts surveys on the effects of reserve management - anything from a butterfly count to a bird census. Special projects include protecting the little tern, Britain's second rarest breeding shorebird, which nests here, and the reserve em-

Working in a nature reserve means more than mending fences. Wardens should have a strong business sense, says Derek Morgan

plays a warden on contract for this job. Three people manage the reserve but volunteers run the visitor centre all year round.

Mr Hawke likes the independence the job allows. "We are fairly autonomous and we plan our day-to-day work. Major policy decisions would require liaison with county trust headquarters." He enjoys the outdoor work but it is "not so good in winter, especially here on the east coast".

Officially, Mr Hawke works 40 hours a week spread over six days, but in summer the week can rise to 70 hours. His pay is £9,300 a year, but accommodation is included, although being on site means being on call.

Competition for outdoor jobs is fierce. The Field Studies Council employs wardens at its reserves at Slapton, Devon, and at Malham, Yorkshire. James Hindson, the council's education adviser, says wardens need "a sound ecological knowledge of the environment they are managing". They also need some business acumen to help to generate revenue and manage a budget. "The ability to mend hedges or put up a signpost is not enough," he says.

The council also employs 12 field centre managers. Business skills are even more important

here as the job is "like running a medium-sized hotel", Mr Hindson says.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds manages more than 60 sites with permanent wardens and it has 90 contract staff working on projects such as Operation Osprey at Loch Garten. Contract wardens earn about £500 a month, with free accommodation, maybe in a lighthouse.

Jon Haw, the society's reserves officer, says: "In view of the more complex nature of the work, we are increasingly looking to appoint people with the highest possible academic qualifications, backed up by relevant work experience."

The number of annual vacancies for full-time wardens is limited, however. Five hundred applications have been received for 20 contracts in 1991, and a permanent post at the Minsmere reserve, Suffolk, attracted 50 replies.

A warden generally requires academic qualifications combined with an interest in natural history and practical experience. Mr Hawke, aged 31, has a BSc in agricultural zoology and did post-graduate work in medical parasitology. He worked as a volunteer warden with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, which gave him a two-month contract looking after a rare

orchid. "I lived in a caravan in the middle of a wood," he says. In September 1989 he became the assistant warden at Gibraltar Point and was promoted early this year.

Mr Hindson says: "There is a lack of coherent career progression for graduates in the nature warden area of environmental management." However, one way to improve career prospects is voluntary work, which may lead to a short-term contract. An experienced assistant can seek a warden's job with a county trust and then transfer to a reserve post with a national body. A warden might also move to a desk job.

The society aims to provide better career opportunities through longer contracts and new training courses. Wardens receive in-house training in modern business skills, including report writing, team leadership and time management. Women have been seriously under-represented but now hold 15 of the society's 90 contract posts.

School-leavers seeking a higher education course should check that it includes practical experience.

● The Countryside Commission publishes a *Countryside Education and Training Directory of relevant courses*. Send an A4 stamped, addressed envelope to Countryside Commission Publications, 19-23 Albert Road, Manchester M19 2EQ. The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers runs residential and day courses for volunteers. Contact the trust at 36 St Mary's Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0EU.



Bird man: Kevin Wilson guarded the little tern breeding colony

PROFILE

KEVIN Wilson, aged 25, from Farnham, Surrey, is the assistant warden at Gibraltar Point. After school he worked in commercial forestry and then took a three-year, full-time Business and Technical Education Council national diploma in countryside recreation at Marist Wood College, Guildford, Surrey. The course included two placements - six months in Lincolnshire and nine months as a seasonal ranger with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, doing practical work such as fencing.

Mr Wilson left college in 1989 and took a temporary job with a nature expedition company in Wales to gain experience. His first job at Gibraltar Point was a winter contract. "I had visited on bird-watching trips and had made contacts through volunteering at weekends," he says. He was given a one-year post as a shorebird warden guarding the little tern breeding colony. "You live and sleep in a hut on the beach protecting birds against foxes, hares and people," he says.

In his new permanent job he is outdoors more than his boss but he is responsible for all natural history records, including a daily bird log, and writing a monthly sightings report. The reserve office has a word processor.

"My main interest is birds," says Mr Wilson, who has seen 420 species on the British List, "but you have to be a generalist. If you are in the middle of a meeting you cannot rush out with binoculars to look at an osprey."

His most memorable experience was a heavy tandem of migrant birds from Scandinavia on a foggy afternoon last autumn. He recalls: "There were incredible numbers of thrushes and fieldfares, goldcrests on every available branch, a carpet of Goldfinches on a ploughed field."

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This is a new post which offers an excellent opportunity for a dynamic and motivated individual to head the Authority's Information Technology Unit and supervise the introduction and development of information technology systems within the Authority which has recently approved a substantial expansion programme. The post will be based at Fire Service Headquarters, Birkenshaw.

THE REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should have a minimum of three years experience in a computing and/or data communications environment and be able to demonstrate strong skills in network management requirements. A degree in an appropriate discipline would be considered an advantage and a full current driving licence is required. Applicants will be required to supervise projects to completion within agreed timescales. Experience with the following will be relevant: Novell, TCP/IP, Oracle, Dbase, C, Lotus 123, Autocad, UNIX, MSDOS, Wordperfect.

For application forms and information pack contact the Personnel Section, West Yorkshire Fire and Civil Defence Authority, Oakroyd Hall, Birkenshaw, West Yorkshire BD11 2DY (telephone Bradford (0274) 682311 extensions 2282 or 2288.)

Closing date for return of applications is 4 June 1991.

The Authority is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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THE JOB

This is a new post which offers an excellent opportunity for a dynamic and motivated individual to assist the Director of Technical Services in managing all aspects of the Authority's property related activities including capital building and maintenance programmes. The post will be based at Fire Service Headquarters, Birkenshaw but the property management role covers some 50 different locations spread throughout West Yorkshire.

THE REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should be qualified Chartered Surveyors (RICS) preferably with several years' post qualification experience in property management and possess good general management and communication skills. Applicants must also possess a full valid driving licence.

For application forms and information pack contact the Personnel Section, West Yorkshire Fire and Civil Defence Authority, Oakroyd Hall, Birkenshaw, West Yorkshire BD11 2DY (telephone Bradford (0274) 682311 extensions 2282 or 2288.)

Closing date for return of applications is 4 June 1991

The Authority is an Equal Opportunities Employer

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c.£40K + performance related pay
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You must have proven management skills and be able to demonstrate excellent organisational, general management and leadership abilities. In addition, you will have a proven track record of success at senior management level, either within the National Health Service, the Public, or the Private Sector. In return, we offer a first class salary and benefits package, including car lease scheme, performance related pay and relocation assistance where appropriate.

A comprehensive information pack is available from the Directorate of Manpower Services, Fife Health Board, Glenrothes House, North Street, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 5PB. Tel 0592 754355 ext 444.
Closing date for applications 24th May 1991.



ENGLISH BASKET BALL ASSOCIATION Chief Executive - Range £25,000- £35,000

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THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS



National Database of Vocational Qualifications
The National Council for Vocational Qualifications is the government body created to establish the new system of National Qualifications. One of our key tasks is to maintain and develop our National Database of Vocational Qualifications.

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All the above posts are based at our Central London Offices, and some travelling may be required.

Applicants should write with a full C.V., including salary history and availability, and state which post they are applying for, to Liz Hunter, Personnel Officer, NCVQ, 222 Euston Road, London NW1 2BZ, to arrive not later than 7 May 1991.

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For further information write to John Newlands, Honorary Director, Aldis Trust, Aldis House, 1 Albany Park, Cabot Lane, Poole, Dorset. BH17 7BX

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Clark to the Merseyside Police Authority, P.O. Box 101A, West House, Mercury Court, Liverpool L68 2NU in an envelope marked STAFF IN CONFERENCE.

Telephone: 051-236 4748 Extension 2450.

Previous applicants need not apply.

Interviews will be held on Wednesday, 12th June 1991.

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For further information, job descriptions and application forms please contact 071 794 4981 (24 hour answering machine) or Joan Roberts on 071 794 6508 ext 4864. NO AGENCIES.

Closing date: 27th May 1991.

The Royal Free Hospital, Paul Street, Hampstead NW3 2QG
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LEGAL



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For an informal discussion please contact Piers Thompson on 0527 73232 extension 202 and for an application form please contact: The Personnel/Administrative Assistant, Bromsgrove District Council, Burcol Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcs, B60 1AA. Tel: 0527 73232 ext 300/307. Closing date, 31st May 1991.

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Richmond upon Thames Churches Housing Trust is an Equal Opportunities employer.

Closing date: 5th June 1991.



1500 00 00 00

Judicious pruning and firm leadership needed

Feeling rather like an unfulfilled Crichton who, in contrast to the character in J.M. Barrie's play, never even made it beyond the foreshore of the island, I recently left the staff of the Amateur Rowing Association that I found distasteful. I will try to explain why.

Over the last 20 years or so, British rowing has enjoyed periods of success in international competition. In the 1970s, lightweight men and, in recent years, lightweight women, and especially with juniors. Inevitably, however, attention is focused on the virtues of the men's heavyweight team and so I will illustrate some of the problems inherent in British rowing by reference to them.

From the mid-1970s, when heavyweight men's crews, coached by Bob Janousek, led a resurgence of British senior rowing, into the early 1980s, there was a wave of success which included three medals at the Moscow Olympics.

One of the medal-winning crews of this time was the former Ealing Green School world junior silver medal coxless four, three of whom successfully made the transition to senior level, coached by my good friend, David Tanner.

Then followed a decline until 1984, when Britain took the gold medal in coxed fours at the Los Angeles Olympics. That was Steven Redgrave's first senior medal.

From 1984 to 1990, of the 11 medal-winning men's crews, nine included Redgrave; eight of his nine medals were in coxed or coxless pairs. From 1985 to 1988,

British rowing success at senior level in recent years has been in spite of rather than because of a policy to identify and develop talent. Bruce Grainger, the former international performance director of the Amateur Rowing Association, discusses what has been going wrong

no senior men's crews, other than his, won medals at international championships.

Two inferences may be drawn from this data: first, had Redgrave, an outstanding athlete, not been present, it seems unlikely that we would have won many of these medals; second, it is probably more important to identify talented athletes than to waste time coaching those that are second rate (although every candidate has the right to be tried out against others for the team).

The first coach to recognise in print the importance of an effective talent-identification scheme harnessed to a modern training system was Karl Adam, from Ratzburg, West Germany, in 1962, but it was in the totalitarian regimes of eastern Europe that such concepts were fully realised.

Many people will be aware of the supremacy of East German crews at senior world championship and Olympic level from 1966 until the final appearance of the East German team in 1990. But to appreciate the full effect of the East German talent identification system, we should scrutinise the results of the world junior

(under-18) championships. Unlike senior rowing, there is a continual turn-over of new talent every year at junior level. Nevertheless, from 1968, when the East German junior team first appeared, until 1990, it won strings of gold medals each year.

Four out of eight junior men's gold medals in one year was an average performance; on occasion, they won all eight. The junior women's team sustained an even higher average level of achievement.

This consistent record of success was attributable to meticulous talent identification from an early age (and other factors).

Of course, success in rowing, as in any other sport, is a question of both nature and nurture, of identification of talent, and the training and development of that talent. Both components must be incorporated in a pyramid, competitive development structure. If either component is neglected, success will be limited.

Most of the successes of senior British crews over the last 20 years have been in spite of, rather than because of, any ARA system for identifying and developing

talent. Not that this in any way defames the rowers and coaches who have produced that success; it makes their achievements more laudable.

It is ARA "strategy and policy" that should be criticised. Really outstanding athletes will almost always make it to the top; those with just sufficient talent to win medals or championships, given the right coaches, training and circumstances, may be overlooked in the absence of an appropriate system.

So what is to be done? Perhaps British rowing is as good as senior level as it ever will be. Perhaps one gold medal at each Olympic Games is as much as we should ever expect.

This I cannot accept. My own target for the 1992 Olympic Games was a minimum of two men's gold medals, and at least one other medal, with the additional, outside, chance of a medal in one of the women's events.

Any nation or sports federation can play the same numbers game as which the East Germans were so successful. There are free countries where, in rowing good talent-identification systems have been used. (In Italy, for example, under the guidance of Thor Nilsen, there has been much success over the last ten years, especially with lightweight men's rowing.)

In Australia, coaches at the Institute of Sport conducted a pilot scheme in junior women's rowing. Hundreds of girls were tested and interviewed to identify a small number with the potential for rowing success. From these, a



Redgrave: outstanding

coxless four was composed that won the world junior championship in 1989.

In Britain, our own successful scheme for the early identification of talent has led to medal success at junior level, and as former junior medal-winning athletes have progressed to the senior level, medal success at that level, too. It is a country with a strong school rowing system, which rejected an earlier, ineffective junior policy in favour of a newer one introduced in 1982-83. Medals have been won every year since 1983 (1984 excepted), and gold medals every year since 1987.

The talented, former junior athletes continually and ever more

strongly challenge the remaining rump of the older athletes, who see their guaranteed places in the senior team threatened. Most of the older candidates have not come through the fiercely competitive junior system and are strongly opposed to any trials that may expose weaknesses in their performance.

Returning to the situation prevailing in the men's senior squad, my views on the need for thorough testing of candidates and crews on the water were not well received by the "old guard" or by the large establishment club which seems to recruit many of them.

Nevertheless, the performance of the new, younger athletes speaks for itself: a bronze medal in the men's eight at the 1989 world championship (the crew included seven former junior medal winners), Matthew Pinsent (world junior champion in 1988) partnered Redgrave to a bronze medal last year, nine out of the 23 senior men's team in 1990 were recent junior medal-winners, and at trials in April the performance of the younger athletes equalled or excelled that of many of the older.

The appointment of a former East German coach, already employed as a coach by a large club in Great Britain, as a "technical adviser" to the men's group, is, in my view, misguided, because it imperils the independence of the central administrative and selection process and it ignores one fundamentally important rule: each federation has to find its own solutions to its problems. They cannot be imported from over-

seas. We may be able to benefit from the experience of our foreign colleagues, but methods appropriate to one set of cultural, social, economic and political conditions are not necessarily applicable elsewhere. Inevitably, the effects of these decisions will influence other areas of our rowing for years.

The ARA's real problems seem to me to lie deep in the heart of its amateur hierarchy of officials and their apparent unwillingness fully to delegate authority to, and lack of respect for, those whom they appoint to run its operations. This is a recipe for political intrigue and unstable management in a sport that includes some very determined and capable high-achievers.

There is an ARA constitutional review in progress. Perhaps it is too much to hope that some of its proposals would lead to a streamlining of the ARA's amateur structure, more delegation to professional staff, a pruning of some of the endless amateur committees and some firm leadership.

I see myself as the latest victim of the mindless, Machiavellian, manoeuvrings that bedevil rowing. However, my fate is now history. If there had been more scientific coaches involved, and fewer history-men, I might even now still have been trudging the corridors of power at ARA headquarters. Rowing in Britain is the waterfront of amateur politics in British sport, and life on that waterfront is unpleasantly cut-throat. I would prefer, for the time being, to cut my lawn instead.

HOCKEY

England miss out on the chances for consolidation

By ALEX RAMSAY

AS CHAMPIONS of Europe, the England squad made their way home yesterday, adorned with gold medals and savouring their moment of triumph. But for some of them and for the four-strong management team, they are all dressed up with nowhere to go.

The focus of attention now falls on Great Britain and the Olympic Games. With no money left to send England to the Champions Trophy in the autumn, the England camp has little to look forward to next season. In the opinion of Sue Slocombe, the England coach, it is a missed opportunity. She would have preferred to take a new and inexperienced squad to Germany and finish last just to blood young players at the top level.

"Our players get little enough top-class experience at the best of times, but how often do young players get to compete with the top five in the world?" she asked. "But I hope we've paved the way for people at home so that they can now draw on the knowledge we've gained."

"It would be tragic if we do not build on the success we've now achieved. To get into the

top four in the world and now to be first in Europe - it's a very special moment."

Slocombe is not the most effusive of characters. Strong-willed and slightly reserved, she takes criticism in her stride. And there has been criticism this year. Despite her protestations that everything was going according to plan, England's results showed little signs of their coming success.

Even in the early rounds in Brussels they did not have the appearance of champions. But Slocombe's belief never wavered and England got stronger as the tournament wore on. By the time they had beaten the world champions, The Netherlands, in the semi-finals even Slocombe's reserve was beginning to crack as she celebrated looking like a smile on legs.

"The worst moment was when we were 2-1 in the penalty shoot-out against the Dutch," she said. "That was the only time doubt crept into my mind. If it hadn't been for Jo Thompson in goal then, we would have been out. She proved then and in the final that she is a top class 'keeper'."

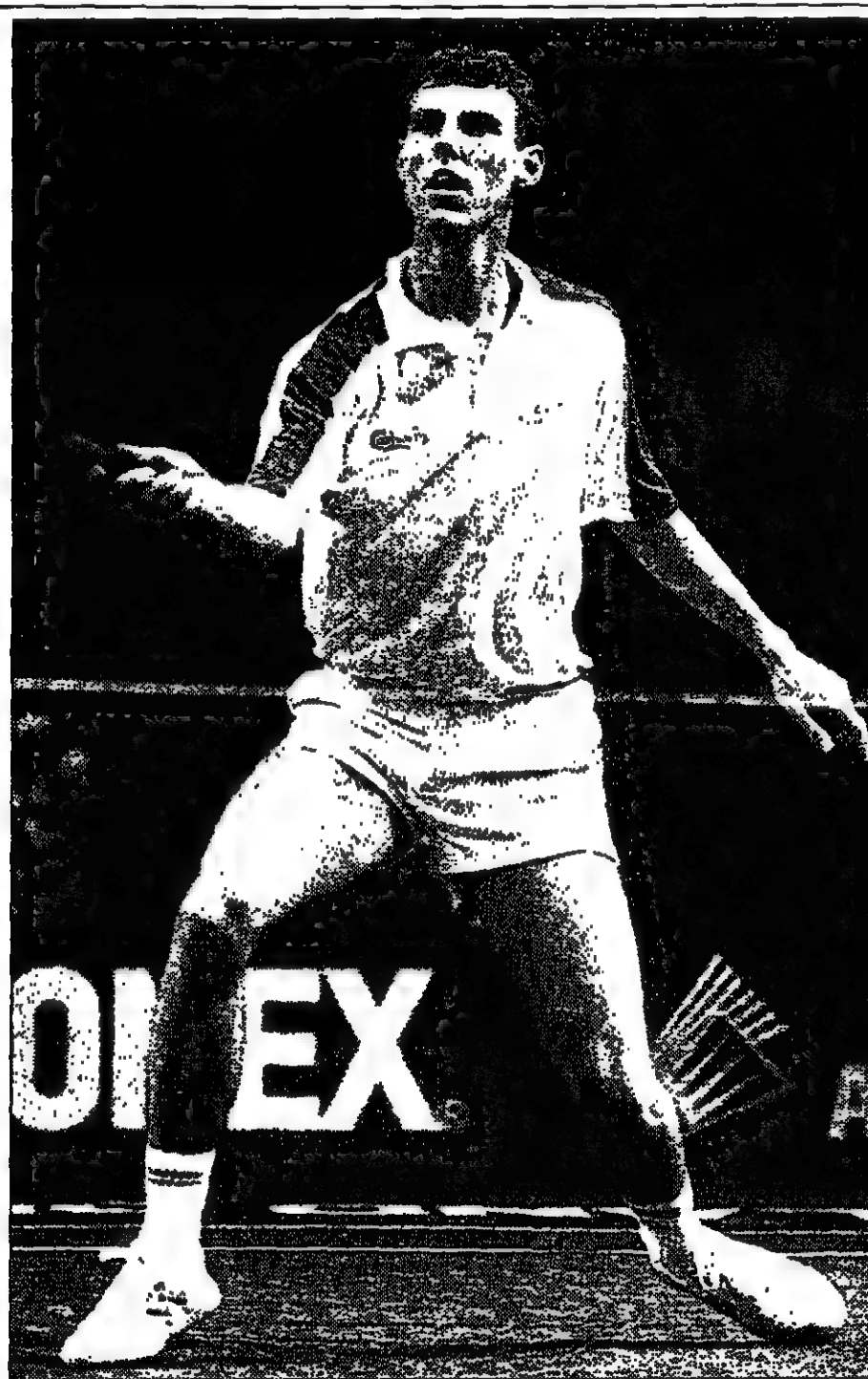
It was Thompson, who took

England to the gold medal. Her influence was vital to wards England's success. Her reading of the game and lightning reflexes kept the Germans at bay in the final as they launched attack after attack.

Constantly encouraging, cajoling and badgering her team-mates, she dominated from the back. The surprise is that she has not been named for the Great Britain squad. Now she must wait to see whether her performance last week has finally earned her a place in the training group.

"I think I have done all I can to earn selection," she said. With 25 England caps and world and European cup experience she feels she is well placed to help Britain achieve their Olympic goal.

"The World Cup was mind-blowing for me," she said. "To come fourth in the world and yet not to win anything for it - I learned a lot from that. I knew fourth wasn't good enough. Then to go so far with England in Europe. The other home countries 'keepers' haven't had that experience. I now know that I'm even more equipped to achieve a medal."



Perfect sportsman: Frost shows the form that has captivated badminton audiences

The great Dane who will be impossible to replace

MORTEN Frost, who retired last week, may be irreplaceable. Arguably the most successful singles badminton player of the Eighties, the Dane was the only European good enough to stand up to the Asian avalanche.

Frost, who lives in London for tax purposes, was vital to the health of the sport. He was more than the focus of the aspirations of a continent: he was a vehicle of an aesthetically pleasing and athletically spectacular sports ambition to become a truly global entertainment.

It was small wonder, then, that Koreans, Indonesians, Chinese, Danes and English alike stood to applaud when Frost received the International Badminton Federation's distinguished service award after the world championships in Copenhagen at the weekend.

Frost was the invalid who became the world No. 1, a shoe salesman's son who became a multi-millionaire, a player who was prone to tantrums only to become one of the most disciplined, cool-headed, best-behaved and

RICHARD EATON looks at the career of the great Danish badminton player, Morten Frost.

most sportsmanlike players there have ever been. It was these qualities that particularly endeared him to the English.

As to his technique, Frost had the nimblest of footwork, the most resilient of defences, and the most enduring stamina of his time. This latter quality was all the more surprising since it occurred in a man whose parents believed was too sick and feeble to pursue his desire to be a professional sportsman. An asthmatic, he was allergic to more than 20 different things, and had been advised not to disturb his lungs with too much exercise.

But he ignored the advice. "They could not keep me down," he said with a smile. It was more than a decade ago that Frost angrily threw a racket to the other side of the net during a final and told the unlucky umpire he knew

nothing about badminton. His opponent in the final of his next tournament had a sense of humour and came on wearing a helmet. It helped Frost change his attitude.

"I took a look at myself and didn't like what I saw," he admitted, and he had not only the character to recognise his fault but the will to erase it. He never won the world title, but produced his career-best badminton to beat the latest world champion, Zhao Jiahua, in the semi-finals in Beijing in 1987, and then in the final came from 2-12 to 12-13 in the third game of an unforgettable contest against the other great Chinese left-hander, Yang Yang. This nearly silenced 20,000 roaring throats in the dragon's den itself. Frost went private tears after this heroic feat.

He is best known for his achievements in the All England championships. He always reached the quarter-finals. Eleven times, he made the semi-finals. He reached the final eight times and four times became champion. The Wimbledon event was the tournament he loved most.

Yet, perhaps as significant an achievement was that in 1984 when he won the world grand prix finals in the Negeri Stadium in Kuala Lumpur, overcoming the brilliant Indonesian, Laim Swie King, not to mention the noise, humidity and heat. That was perhaps the only major singles title ever won by a European in the difficult conditions of southeast Asia. It may be a long time before it happens again.

Ciniglio will stay on

CIRO Ciniglio has been appointed as part-time England manager for another two years and will try to continue developing his squad at least until the next world championships at Birmingham in 1993 (Richard Eaton writes).

The decision is a vote of confidence by the Badminton Association of England executive committee in Ciniglio, who was this country's most successful manager in the mid-Eighties. The association has also asked Kae Jae Bok to continue as England coach for a further two years.

Labour demands state funds for Manchester bid

By JOHN GOODBODY

TOM Pendry, the chairman of the parliamentary Labour Party's sports committee, yesterday criticised the Government's refusal to make any money directly available for staging the 2000 Olympic Games in Manchester, despite Robert Atkins, the minister for sport, saying he would be giving "150 per cent" support to the bid.

Pendry, the MP for Stalybridge and Hyde, said: "Unless the Government is prepared to back the Manchester bid with more than words, then once again our British bid will be doomed to failure."

"The Government should do what virtually every other government does when its country is staging the Olympic Games, and that is to provide public finance which together with money from the local authority and private sector, can give the necessary support."

Immediately after Manchester, and not London, was chosen on April 24 as the British candidate, the Prime Minister wrote to give his congratulations and support, and Atkins has said he wants to help Manchester as much as he can. "They have 150 per cent commitment from the Government and me," he said.

Atkins has pointed out that the Government has put £3 billion into Manchester, with improvements to the infrastructure in the region, including work on the airport and the building of the Supertram system, and that the Government never provides money directly for sports events.

Pendry termed the offer as "150 per cent of hot air". He said: "This £3 billion was earmarked for the North-west three

years ago and, in fact, falls short of what is needed for the infrastructure. It is not related to any Olympic bid."

For 2000, Manchester is still hoping that some of the £60 million to £75 million allocated annually to a new sports and arts foundation, paid by the football pools, will be available for the building of stadiums.

The Sports Council yesterday recommended that David Pick-up, its director-general, should serve on the proposed management committee of the Manchester bid. The council, a government-financed quango, has already met the British Olympic Association (BOA) and yesterday a spokesman for the council said after its monthly meeting: "We agreed to wait until the International Olympic Committee session in Birmingham in June, when the BOA and Manchester will have a better idea of exactly what they want to achieve."

The council wants to ensure that any money for Manchester will go towards facilities that will benefit the region, even if Manchester is not awarded the Games. The council wants proper representation on the foundation. It wants sport's share of the money to be used for facilities that will benefit the region, even if Manchester is not awarded the Games. The council wants proper representation on the foundation. It wants sport's share of the money to be used for facilities that will benefit the region, even if Manchester is not awarded the Games.

Yzaga rules court
Jaime Yzaga defeated Jimmy Arias 6-3, 7-5 to win the United States men's clay-court tennis championships on Sunday.

CYCLING

Curran lets amateurs know that he is back

By PETER BRYAN

THE outline was familiar, compact and giving the impression that man and machine were one. Paul Curran was back as an amateur in the Lincoln Grand Prix on Sunday after an absence of two years in the professional ranks.

He celebrated his return in the classic way: dominance on the forbidding one-in-six half-mile climb of Michaelgate, a cobblestoned between the grandeur of the cathedral and the castle, and then the lone escape for the final circuit of eight miles.

True, on the finishing climb

to the line Curran's head drooping, the tell-tale sign of dropping strength. He admitted to being tired but his suffering was nothing compared with those who trained behind him. His effort produced a record fourth victory in the 102-mile event.

Curran, who leads the England team in the Milk Race last month, will be in action on Michaelgate again in that event when the 110-mile Cleerhopes to Lincoln stage finishes with three climbs of the hill. His weekend win puts him second in the Star Trophy competition.

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE			
Saturday May 18			
VICTORIA SECOND DIVISION 1 Barnet v Chesham 2 Brighton v Sandhurst 3 Colchester v Doncaster 4 Luton v Notts 5 Nuneaton v Dagenham 6 Rushmore v Chesham 7 St Albans v Ketter 8 Sunbury v Bromley 9 Wealden v Alton		VICTORIA FIFTH DIVISION 1 East Tilbury v Boreham 2 Havering v Barking 3 Haringey v Barking 4 Haringey v Barking 5 Haringey v Barking 6 Haringey v Barking 7 Haringey v Barking 8 Haringey v Barking 9 Haringey v Barking	
VICTORIA THIRD DIVISION 1 Fitzroy v Corby 2 Haringey v Barking 3 Haringey v Barking 4 Haringey v Barking 5 Haringey v Barking 6 Haringey v Barking 7 Haringey v Barking 8 Haringey v Barking 9 Haringey v Barking		VICTORIA FOURTH DIVISION 1 Fitzroy v Corby 2 Haringey v Barking 3 Haringey v Barking 4 Haringey v Barking 5 Haringey v Barking 6 Haringey v Barking 7 Haringey v Barking 8 Haringey v Barking 9 Haringey v Barking	

BASEBALL

Big hitter proves no big hit for Red Sox

By ROBERT KERLEY

FIFTY years ago, Ted Williams, of the Boston Red Sox, achieved the spectacular feat of averaging .406. Never modest, Williams said that he wanted people to point him out on the street and say: "There goes the greatest hitter who ever lived."

No other player has managed .400 for a season since. On Sunday, the Red Sox honoured Williams before their home game at Fenway Park. Alas, his presence inspired the wrong club. Ruben Sierra, of the Texas Rangers, got four hits and drove in four runs as the Rangers beat Boston 12-5. The Red Sox, who have won eight of their last ten games, lead the American League East.

Harold Baines hit three home runs, driving in a personal-best seven runs, as the Oakland Athletics beat the Baltimore Orioles 11-3 last week. Baines became the fifth player in club history to hit three home runs in

a game but only the second, after Reggie Jackson in 1969, to do so at the Oakland Coliseum, a park with distant fences and unfavourable wind currents.

Hitting three "dingers" in a game in Oakland has eluded his muscular team-mates, Jose Canseco and Mark McGwire, and every visiting American League power hitter from Mickey Mantle to Cecil Fielder. Baines, aged 32, has been an All-Star four times. He joined the A's as a designated hitter last August after a year with Texas.

A jury in New York convicted a man of trying to extort money from the former boss of the New York Yankees, George Steinbrenner. Howard Spira was convicted of eight counts of extortion against Steinbrenner and faces a possible jail term of up to 22 years and a \$5,000 fine.

Spira alleged that Steinbrenner had paid him \$40,000 last year to uncover harmful information about Dave Winfield, a former Yankee player. After an investigation by the baseball commissioner discovered that Steinbrenner had paid the money, Steinbrenner resigned as the club's managing partner.

The Atlanta Braves, who led the National League West in games last during the last three seasons, have won seven of their last ten to take a one-game lead over the Cincinnati Reds, the winners of the World Series last autumn, and the Los Angeles Dodgers. Doug Jones, who has saved 112 games for the Cleveland Indians over the past three seasons, has faltered and lost his job as closer.

RUGBY UNION

A brutal answer to style

From PETER BILLS

IN BORDEAUX

RACING Club de France can play rugby to delight the gods, but their swashbuckling style seems as provocative to their protagonists in French club rugby as a red rag to a bull.

The phenomenon was demonstrated by Agen's brutality against the Parisian club in last season's cup final. It emerged again last week when Racing, now the defending French champions, were involved in a quarter-final tie.

The atmosphere an hour before the start of a match, which Racing won 18-6 at Biarritz, led Racing's articulate French international, Jean Baptiste Lafond, to forecast: "This match is already ruined."

These, the Dax hooker, was sent off after five minutes for violent play. Others, engaging in fist fights, remained. Racing's flamboyance is legendary. Their backs wore pink bow ties during last season's cup final and sipped champagne at half-time. But their leading players, such as Messel, Lafond and Charvet, are augmented by a powerful pack in which the back five are all internationals.

Toulouse, 24-6 conquerors of Narbonne, attempt a similarly expansive game as Racing. Their meeting this Saturday is a semi-final for which everyone wants seats.

Béziers, the club of forward might, play Béziers-Bordeaux in the other game. Béziers have crushed Nîmes 30-17, with the Cambarbéro brothers, Didier and Gilles, contributing 26 points. Béziers, the surprise package, may struggle to match Béziers.

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Dartrey to shine over longer trip

WHILE being full of admiration for the 1,000 Guineas winner Shadai, I have long held the view that Dartrey is a more likely winner of the Oaks at Epsom, especially judged on her breeding.

So at York today I will be looking to this daughter of the 1984 French Derby winner Darshaan, the sire of Aliya, to put theory into practice by winning the Tattersalls Musidora Stakes.

This is the first time she will be racing over a distance that is in keeping with her pedigree, since she is out of a mare by the American triple crown winner, Secretariat.

As a two-year-old Dartrey was confined to just one race at Newmarket in the autumn,

which she won nicely enough.

Considering not only her relative lack of experience but also the fact that she had not had a preparatory race this spring, I thought she ran entirely adequately on her eventual seasonal debut when finishing sixth in the 1,000 Guineas.

The last time that today's trial was won by a subsequent winner of the Oaks was three years ago when Sheikh Mohammed's Diminuendo was triumphant.

Now the Sheikh's colours will be carried by Shamsir in addition to Dartrey. Last season Shamsir took higher rank than my selection by winning the Brentford Walker Mile at Ascot in September.

MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

after being beaten a short head in the May Hill Stakes at Doncaster. However, she is now faced with the task of giving weight away all round to race-fit rivals when she herself has not enjoyed the benefit of an outing for six months.

Nevertheless, it is pertinent to point out that at Ascot Shamsir did finish five-and-three-quarter lengths ahead of Jaffa Line, who so nearly beat the colts at their own game in the classic trial at Sandown last month.

Being by High Line, Jaffa

Line will always be vulnerable against an opponent who can also quickly and I believe that Dartrey is just such one.

Today's programme on the Knavevire can begin with Pat Eddery winning the 2,000 Guineas on Twafaj (2.00) and Goldline Seeker (2.35).

Twafaj, my selection for the EBF Zetland Maiden Fillies' Stakes, was unfortunate to come unstuck against the Royal Ascot hope Marling when each made their debut at Newmarket. But she was not disgraced in second place.

Goldline Seeker, my choice for Lambourn Graduation Stakes, beat the Kempton winner Lovelock by 20 lengths. Think first time out. Lovelock probably

didn't get the trip that day, but it was still a performance that entitles Goldline Seeker to be followed.

Having won twice over York's six furlongs, Bertie Wooster will be back on one of his happier hunting grounds with a clear chance of winning the Paul Caddick and MacGay Sprint Trophy.

The Yorkshire Television Handicap can go to the bottom weight Vague Dancer, whose form this season has improved as his distance has been increased. When he was runner-up to Melotte over ten furlongs at Doncaster recently, he gave the impression that today's longer trip could suit him even better.

Denstone Wanderer to oblige

DENSTONE Wanderer's modest win at Tweseldown last time was better than anything achieved so far this season by his rivals in the Cuckoo Novice Hunters' Chase (5.45) at Folkestone's all-weather track meeting this evening (Brian Beal writes).

For the Guy Peate Memorial Chase (6.15), Peach Leaf is penalised after being placed first at Worcester eight days ago, and this may tip the scales in favour of Milbird, an easy winner of his hunt race at the Surrey Union point-to-point on Saturday.

Joe Turner's five-year-old Royal Sledge, successful in his last two races between the flags, will be difficult to beat in the two-and-a-half mile South East Championship Chase (6.45).

The most competitive race at the meeting looks to be the Shepherd Neame (7.15) where seven of the runners won last time out.

Maori Warrior's success was only by a short head in a modest race at Taunton, but it was on firm ground and he may come out best again.

Federal Trooper has won his last four point-to-point races and should be good enough to beat the more experienced Sharp Jewel in the Royal Judgement Open Hunters' Chase (7.45).

Easter Lee can atone for his unlucky defeat at Cheltenham in the Grunwick United Hunts Open (8.15) by winning the Land Rover Final at Towcester, the top weights, which include Border Burg, will find it difficult to concede 10lb to Grunsky's Frayner.

MANDARIN

2.00 Twafaj. 2.35 Goldline Seeker. 3.05 Bertie Wooster. 3.40 DARTREY (nap). 4.10 Vague Dancer. 4.40 LOKI.

Our Newmarket Correspondent 2.00 TWAFJ (nap). 3.40 Dartrey. 4.00 Frayner.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 TWAFJ.

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3.40 TATTERSALLS MUSIDORA

Leading clubs withhold players from England

Seven uncapped players named for summer tour

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE Arsenal and Liverpool players, who will be competing against each other for their lucrative mutual benefit in Singapore on Friday, will not be returning to the other side of the world to represent their country, Graham Taylor has been advised that none of them are available for England's summer tour.

Although he insisted yesterday that he had "no qualms" about the apparent lack of co-operation, it would seem that the League champions and the runners-up have agreed among themselves to withhold their representatives. Manchester United, finalists in the European Cup Winners' Cup, have acted likewise.

George Graham, the manager of Arsenal, indicated a week ago that he would be prepared to release the likes of Seaman, Dixon and Smith for the three-week tour of Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia. Liverpool and United, though, were believed to be more reluctant to release Barnes, Pallister and Sharpe. Although all six have been included in the powerful squad for the international against Argentina at Wembley on Saturday week, none of them will be departing from Heathrow 48 hours later. Nor will Gascoigne, who is to go on Tottenham Hotspur's tour of Hawaii and Japan, or Stevens, who is to rest.

Arsenal would have carried the heaviest burden had the three Scottish managers been united in their support for

England. With the exception of Linpar, all of the other regular members of Graham's line-up would have been in contention. Both the Liverpool and United contingents are by comparison meagre.

"I respect the decisions of all managers," Taylor said. "I have no argument with anybody who feels players should have a rest. I'm happy with the squad I'm taking out because it gives others an opportunity. They'll be pleased to get a chance to gain an England cap."

Seven of the tourists have yet to make their debut and four others have made no more than a couple of appearances. The most unexpected inclusion is Salako, Crystal Palace's winger described by Taylor as "instinctive and exciting." Born in Nigeria, he rejected an invitation last year to represent Wales.

Charles, Nottingham Forest's right back and the only other surprise, was chosen on merit. "Even if it hadn't been for the absence of Dixon and Stevens, he was always going to go," Taylor said. "I think he has the potential to be a very good player."

Curle, Wimbledon's central defender who has this season been picked for both the B team and the Football League, is promoted. So is Walters, the Rangers' winger, who was once under Taylor's management at Aston Villa.

Charles is one of five Forest players in the touring party and Salako, one of four Palace representatives. It is clear

where the allegiances of the respective managers, Brian Clough and Steve Coppell, lie. "I can only announce the squad," Taylor said. "Any interpretation must be put on by yourselves."

Clubs have priority on their players during the alternate summers between World Cup and European championships and, considering the various commitments, Taylor expressed relief that as many senior internationals were available. Generously, he estimated that there were 13 or 14. Only eight can realistically be regarded as having already established themselves.

Waddle, controversially omitted from the European championship qualifying tie in Turkey and recalled for the game against the Soviet Union next Tuesday, was ruled out because of his involvement in the European Cup final on May 29. Taylor was not prepared for players belatedly to join the tour.

"That would have downgraded it to a holiday tour," he said. Lineker, by far the most experienced figure, is to act as the captain of the group of 20 and he has an additional incentive for putting his country before his club, as has evidently been the case.

With 39 goals, he stands third in the nation's list of scorers. The matches against Australia in Sydney and against Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur and against New Zealand in Auckland and Wellington offer him the chance to threaten the totals of Greaves, who scored 44, and Bobby Charlton, 49.

He misses the game against the Soviets because of the FA Cup final on Saturday. A new captain must be appointed for the occasion and Taylor is to wait until he has spoken "to the person involved," probably Platt, before officially revealing his identity.

United prepare, page 39

ENGLAND TEAMS

ENGLAND PARTY (v Argentina at Wembley, May 25): G. Wright (Sheff Wed), S. Seaman (Aston), N. Martin (Crystal Palace), L. Dixon (Aston), G. Salako (Crystal Palace), S. Walters (Rangers), A. Dorrigo (Sheff Wed), M. Wright (Derby County), G. Pallister (Manchester United), D. Walters (Nottingham Forest), P. Parker (Queens Park Rangers), D. Platt (Aston Villa), P. Gascoigne (Tottenham Hotspur), D. Batty (Leeds United), G. Thomas (Crystal Palace), D. Villa (Chelsea), M. Clough (Nottingham Forest), G. Lineker (Tottenham Hotspur), J. Salako (Crystal Palace).

ENGLAND TOUR PARTY (for Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia): Wright, A. Dorrigo, S. Walters, G. Salako, M. Wright, K. Curle (Wimbledon), Walters, Parker, Platt, S. Hodge (Nottingham Forest), S. Seaman, S. Walters, J. Salako, I. Wright, M. Walters (Rangers), J. Salako (Crystal Palace).

Ryan dismissed by Luton as Francis leaves Rovers

ON A day of managerial upheavals, Jim Ryan was dismissed by Luton Town and Gerry Francis tendered his resignation at Bristol Rovers. Ryan's departure from Luton was the more remarkable, coming 48 hours after he had masterminded a second escape from relegation.

Not surprisingly, Ryan left Kenilworth Road, bitterly upset at the decision, which paves the way for the former Luton manager, David Pleat, to return to whence he left five years ago, although the chairman, Peter Nelkin, also has two or three other names in mind for the vacancy.

"I don't want to go into the

reasons why this action has been taken but it was a clash of personalities," Nelkin said. "Jim wasn't going to change and nor was I. You don't take a decision to sack a manager on a whim." Nelkin was obviously not influenced by the ovation, on Saturday, for Ryan. The chairman wanted, he said, a different style of management from a man with a higher profile.

With two years to run on his contract, Ryan, aged 46, is negotiating for a severance pay-off. He had declined to stay on to work under a new manager.

Ryan's first inkling of his fate came when he read of the

speculation in the Sunday papers. "What makes it so hard is that this comes so soon after the election of Saturday," he said. "I feel that I and my staff have done a tremendous job in difficult circumstances. I can't believe this is what you get for keeping a team in the first division."

The resignation of Francis from Bristol Rovers came after he had spent four years in charge. The former England captain, aged 39, whose one-year contract ends next month, announced that he did not want to continue with the second division club. He has been linked with Chelsea and Queen's Park Rangers.

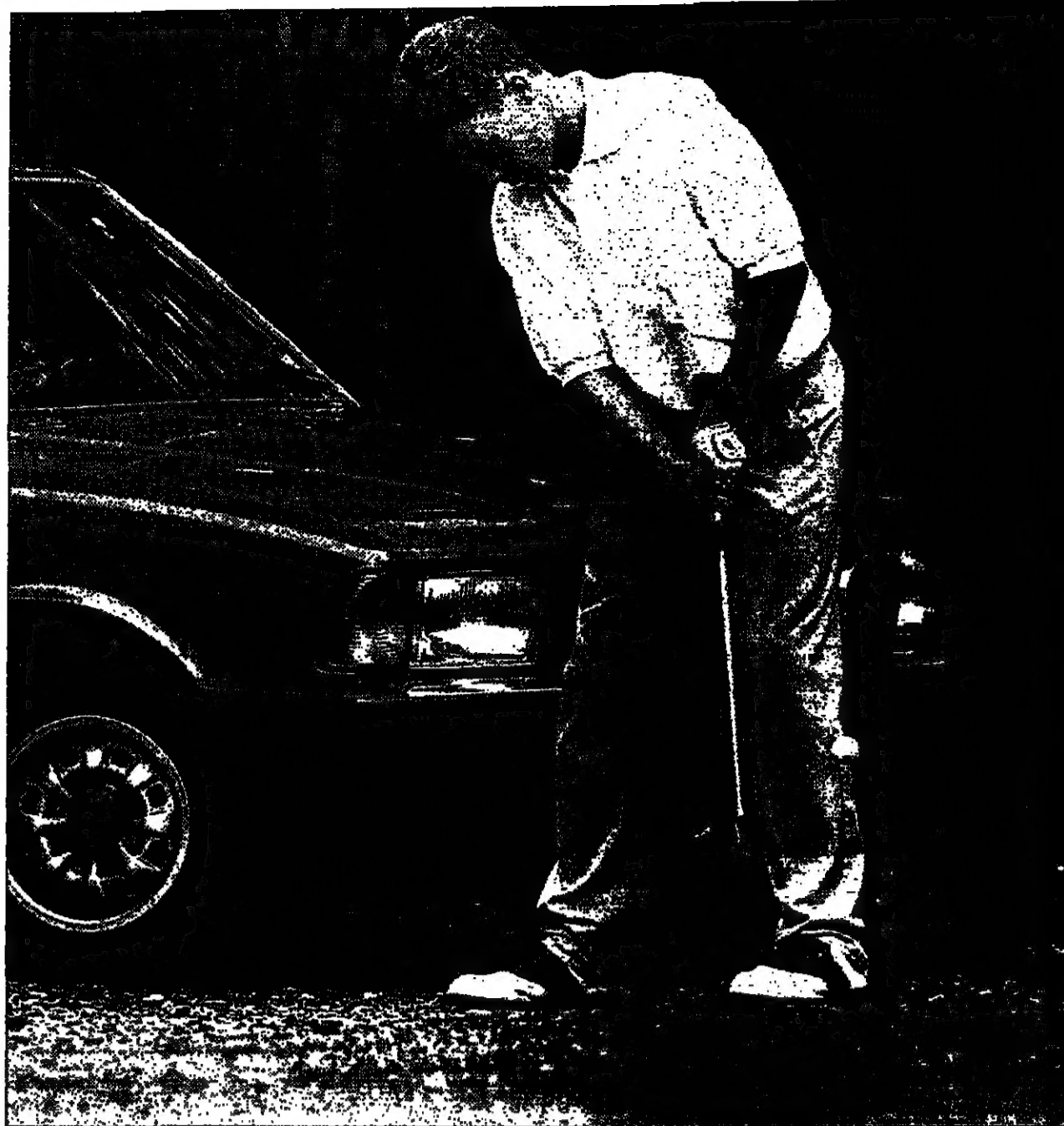
Flashman ready to hand over

STAN Flashman, chairman of Barnet and self-styled "the one-man show", is prepared to give up his richest business after 30 years if the football authorities feel it poses a problem (Dennis Signy writes).

Barnet, champions of the GM Vauxhall Conference, are due to be invited to join the fourth division next month. Reacting to the news that the subject of his business activities had been discussed by the Football League's management committee last week, Flashman said yesterday he was prepared to meet officials.

"I am just running an ordinary business like anyone else," he said. "If the League want me to do anything different, like leaving the business or handing over to my son Mark, that does not pose a problem."

The Football Association confirmed yesterday that it is sending out agents this week to buy "black market" tickets from touts for Saturday's FA Cup final between Nottingham Forest and Tottenham Hotspur in an effort to trace their source. It plans firm action against any club or individual.



Tea break: Simon Marshall, representing Arndt-Gymnasium, Germany, explores facilities at Sunningdale, having found a tea-hut during the Golf Foundation Schools championship yesterday. Report, page 36

Dilley fluffs his final cue

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

WORCESTER (final day of four): Worcestershire (4pts) drew with Lancashire (6)

AN EPIC county cricket championship match looked to have brought Worcestershire victory shortly after six o'clock last evening. Lancashire were 144 for nine in pursuit of 198 when Warren Hegg miscued las Botham to mid-on. It was the sort of gently looping catch a schoolboy might have nightmares about dropping but Graham Dilley, lumbering forward from mid-on, put it down.

Dilley, whose mortification was rivalled only by Botham's disbelief, grabbed the ball to redeem himself in a new spell but, within two balls, steady rain had driven the players off for a third and final time.

For Worcestershire it was a shocking waste of a comeback which demonstrated their resource and resolve. For Dilley it was a savage epitaph to bear, for he had been largely responsible for bowling Worcestershire into a winning position in a 14-over spell which removed Atherton, Lloyd and Fairbrother.

A more persuasive endorsement for four-day cricket one could hardly wish to see. Two potential title contenders competed for control without deals or declarations. Worcestershire, 44 for four in the first innings and effectively 49 for six in the second, spent most of this game under the cosh, yet it ended with Lancashire in disarray.

Such drama seemed inconceivable when Rhodes, hobbling out with a groin strain which will cost him two weeks' cricket, felled at Wasim Akram's loomster and was caught behind.

Illingworth, however, can never be discounted and he was the ideal partner for Moody as the Australian completed his fourth century of the season. An all-run four was indicative of shoddy fielding.

By lunch the lead was 150 and the seventh-wicket stand worth 102. Moody, whose 135 occupied 276 minutes, was quickly out to an oddly diffident stroke and Newport soon followed, but Tolley joined Illingworth in a priceless ninth-wicket addition of 40 before Akram and DeFreitas, who took nine wickets in the match, closed the account.

Lancashire had needed three hours and conceded 150 runs in taking the final four wickets and, although time still seemed on their side, they may regret so hastily retreating for allegedly bad light on Friday evening, wasting 90 minutes when in control.

The bowlers had some uneven bounce on their side and, as Lancashire set off, Dilley and Newport exploited it to the full. Three wickets fell with the score on 21. Fowler, the first, was run out but it did not deter him from later acting as runner for two hobbling colleagues, Fairbrother and Watkinson, as the tension grew and the weather worsened.

DeFreitas was promoted, partly through the casualty list but primarily to hurry the run-rate with rain in mind. He did just that, but at 36 he lost Lloyd, caught by the deputy wicketkeeper, Hick, as he topped a pull.

Newport, locating his line after a fraught start to the season, cut short DeFreitas's whirling when he had made 47 from 35 balls, and when Akram was caught at third man and Botham won a leg before appeal against Yates, Worcestershire were on the

brink. There, due to poor Dilley, they were to stay.

WORCESTERSHIRE: First innings 289 (5) A. Hegg 27, I. Wright 104, S. J. Richardson 67, P. J. W. Allen 14 for 25.
Second innings
G. D. Mendall 104, M. Moody 104, S. J. Richardson 67, P. J. W. Allen 14 for 25.
Lancashire: First innings 408 (5) Fowler 80, M. Atherton 110, M. Hogg 102, G. R. Dilley 5 for 51, I. Wright 4 for 105.
Second innings
G. D. Mendall 104, M. Moody 104, S. J. Richardson 67, P. J. W. Allen 14 for 25.
Lancashire: First innings 408 (5) Fowler 80, M. Atherton 110, M. Hogg 102, G. R. Dilley 5 for 51, I. Wright 4 for 105.
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G. D. Mendall 104, M. Moody 104, S. J. Richardson 67, P. J. W. Allen 14 for 25.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-27, 3-45, 4-49, 5-101, 6-122, 7-227, 8-238, 9-270.
BOWLING: Dilley 21.5-45-105; Hogg 26.5-44-102; Akram 15.5-45-6; Yates 5.1-10-0.
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Selling Sundays, page 14
Photograph, page 38

Big yachts shirk close combat

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL
SAN DIEGO

THE America's Cup could be in serious trouble. That is the widespread conclusion drawn by most experts at the end of the inaugural world championship for the new 75ft America's Cup class yachts.

The light breezes off Point Loma, San Diego and the enormity of the rigs on these yachts which measure three times the size of a 12-metre sail plan, effectively snuff out all opportunities for close combat and overtaking.

"Whoever gets the lead at the start is likely to hold it to the finish," Bill Koch, the America's syndicate boss, predicted before last weekend's one-sided match race finals.

"The only tactic is to sail fast in clear wind to reach the weather mark first."

Glen Sowry, the former Steinlager crewman now sailing on New Zealand, confirmed these worst fears. "Overtaking is almost impossible," he said after losing to the Italians in the final on Saturday. "These boats gen-

erate such a large wind shadow that it is impossible to get close. It's like boxing someone who keeps you at arm's length."

Even the pre-starting duels are likely to be muted affairs. "Ten minutes of harsh circling could break these boats. No one is going to risk having their full length mainsail battens fall before the start," Paul Cayard, the skipper of the victorious Il Moro di Venezia said after the championship. "Two or three minutes is quite enough."

The result was a mind-numbing two to three-hour procession, not seen since the one-sided non-contests off Newport in the Fifties and Sixties which drew clichéd comparisons with watching paint dry and grass grow.

If next year's America's Cup is to attract a worldwide television audience, considerable changes will be required to avoid what one San Diego taxi-driver suggested would be better labelled "the coma off Point Loma."

Tokyo-or-else choice for South Africa

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
ROME

IF SOUTH Africa slams the door in the face of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) by failing to take the chance it has been offered to compete in the world championships in Tokyo this summer, the prospects of its athletes appearing in the Olympic Games next year would be in jeopardy.

That much became clear yesterday, when Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, indicated that South Africa would not be readmitted as a member if it did not commit itself to sending a team to Tokyo. "If they ask to be readmitted and we accept, they

will compete in Tokyo," Nebiolo said.

Under the procedure by which South Africa must emerge from 15 years in isolation as a punishment for practising apartheid, its new controlling body, the South African Amateur Athletic Association (SAAAA), must convince the IAAF that its constitution is sound and its development programme advancing. Two of the three members of the IAAF delegation which reported to Nebiolo yesterday after their five-day visit to South Africa, Lamine Diack and Hassan Agabani, will return in early July to form an assessment.

If they are satisfied, and if the SAAAA decides the time is right, the IAAF congress,

which takes place four days before the championships begin on August 24, would formally welcome them back.

However, the SAAAA, which was formed at the weekend out of three governing bodies, is split. There seemed yesterday, however, to be a shift towards a Tokyo return.

Diack said that, during his delegation's talks with the African National Congress (ANC), he had been assured that the ANC were favouring a return sooner rather than later. The South African Amateur Athletic Congress, which is linked to the ANC and is one of the three bodies absorbed by the SAAAA, had said to an international competition should wait until the development programme had

been given time to work.

Since the other two bodies are divided, the South African Amateur Athletic Union favouring an immediate return but the South African Athletics Board resisting, the ANC line is crucial. Should the SAAAA majority decide against Tokyo, the IAAF congress would not invite South Africa back because members are expected to play a full participating role.

The next congress is not until 1993 and, though an emergency one could be convened to bring South African athletics into the Olympics, Nebiolo is determined to have the republic in Tokyo and did not wish to discuss that as an option. "If no solution is adopted at the congress in

MPs call for more sport in schools

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN URGENT revival of sport in schools that will provide Britain with a future generation of champions and improve the physical well-being of teenagers is to be demanded by the House of Commons education committee.

The cross-party committee's draft report, disclosed to *The Times*, calls for a new strategy recognising the importance of physical education instead of treating it as the poor relation of the national curriculum.

The report, *Sport in Schools*, which has not yet been cleared for publication by the MPs, says it is no longer right to expect teachers to give up their time to run or supervise out-of-hours sports activities without any payment. With extra demands on their time from the government's education reforms and low morale among the teaching profession, the report is expected to call for a system of payments to teachers for evening and weekend events.

Following the committee's enquiry into the decline in school sport, the report is likely to demand a higher proportion of time devoted to games in the national curriculum. The draft report also appeals to the government to stop the sale of any more school playing fields and to provide a better system for allowing youngsters to use school sports facilities outside term time.

The report, to be published next month, will make an important contribution to the full-scale review of school sport being carried out by the sports minister, Robert Atkins. However, the MPs could be pushing at an open door: one of John Major's first moves on becoming prime minister last November was to stress the importance of sport and youth to the sports minister from the environment department to the education and science department to give the issue a higher priority.

The committee, chaired by the Conservative MP, Malcolm Thornton, has been influenced by evidence from school and sporting bodies of the decline in physical education and by the delegation of leading sportsmen and women led by the footballer, Gareth Crooks.

The Secondary Heads Association said the committee had 39 per cent of children in state schools aged 14 received less than two hours in 1987. By last year, the national curriculum began to be introduced, that figure almost doubled. In addition, last year 79 per cent of 16-year-olds had less than two hours PE a week and some had none at all since.

The association wants a minimum of two hours a week allotted to PE, plus changing time, in all state schools. The Schools Sports Forum, the government's advisers, recommend a minimum of two-and-a-half hours.

Crooks, Sharon Davies, the Olympic swimmer, Kim Hagger, the athlete, Jeff Thompson, the world karate champion, and Roger Untley, the rugby union player and coach, made an appeal to the committee to reverse the decline in school sport.

"I have got where I am today principally through sport, so that I have an awful lot to be thankful for, for the start that I got at school. I can say that the good habits that were laid down there remain true today," Untley said.

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